Hafa Adai!

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21 DAY TO GO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you concerned about the financial crisis affecting the United States?

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14 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Financial Crisis
Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson tells international leaders that isolationism and protectionism could worsen spreading financial crisis.

BUSINESS...Page 13

Car Bombs
Suicide car bombers strikes twice in the northern city of Mosul, killing at least six people and wounding dozens of others.

WORLD...Page 16

Sichuan Opera an instant hit with Saipan's kids. **PAGE 2**
'Singing V' contest draws karaoke fans to Club V. **PAGE 9**

Tinian soldier dies while training

Sgt. Manglona among Army's 'best and brightest'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Sgt. Julian Manglona was on one of the final legs of his Army training Thursday before his scheduled deployment on a year-long tour of duty in Kuwait—a 6-mile run on the grounds of Fort Hood, Texas—when he suddenly collapsed.

See TINIAN on Page 4

Manglona

CNMI residents find work at Iowa meatpacking plant

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

There are several residents from the CNMI who are now working with Agriprocessors, a Kosher meatpacking plant in Iowa, and there are still some

See CNMI on Page 4

Fitial condoles death of Miura

RELATED NEWS
'Miura did not say a word, but gave photo-op'
PAGE 3

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Fitial

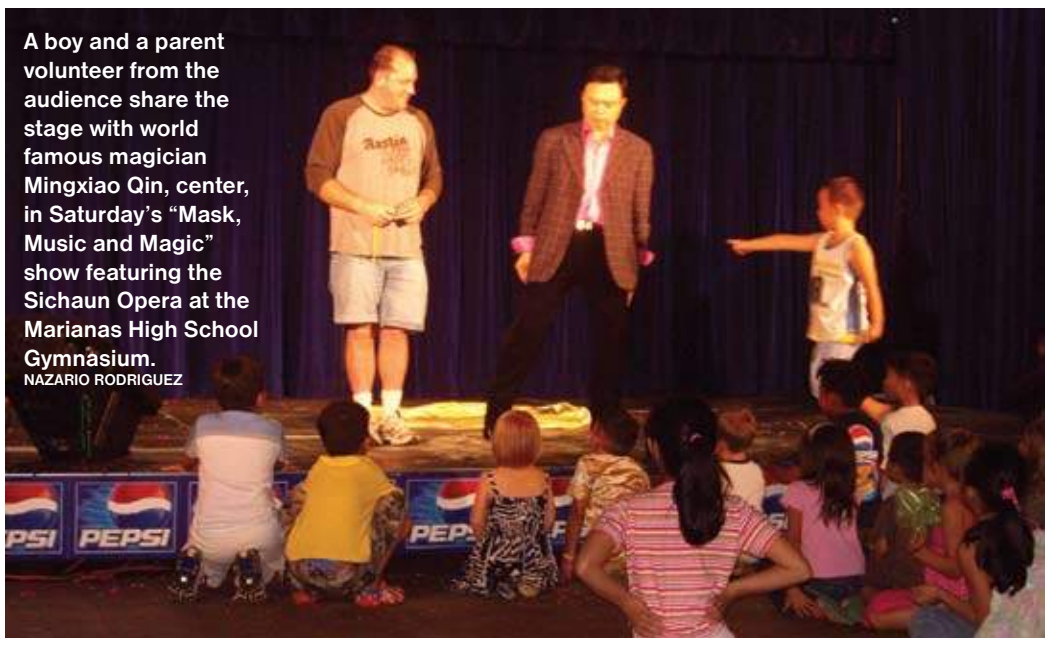
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday conveyed his condolences to the family of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi

See FITIAL on Page 4

SICHUAN OPERA NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members of the world-famous Sichuan Opera thank the appreciative crowd for enjoying the two-hour show last Sunday afternoon at the Marianas High School Gym. ***See story on Page 2***

Local

Sichuan Opera an instant hit with Saipan's kids



A boy and a parent volunteer from the audience share the stage with world famous magician Mingxiao Qin, center, in Saturday's "Mask, Music and Magic" show featuring the Sichaun Opera at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

For the first time in her life, China's most famous Gu Zheng artist, Ji Wei, celebrated her birthday during a performance event.

Wei, who learned her craft at the age of 4, turned 29 while performing before an enthusiastic crowd at the "Mask, Music and Magic" show held Saturday at the Marianas High School Gym.

"It was so special because it's my first time to celebrate my birthday during a show like this and it is also away from China," said Wei.

She was one of the actors belonging to the world famous Sichuan Opera that treated kids and their parents alike to a colorful and witty show showcasing talents from mainland China.

Wei's specialty is the Gu Zheng, a plucked string instrument that is part of the zither family that dates back to at least the "spring and autumn" period in China (770-476 BC). It is one of the most ancient Chinese musical instruments and is the forerunner of the Japanese koto, Korean kayagum, Mongolian yatag, and Vietnamese dan tranh.

Wei received the Grand Prize in the Instrumental Competition for the Northern China division when she was still a kid. She studied at the China Music Conservatory in Beijing.

She has played in solo concerts as well as orchestras overseas several times and was featured in Lang Lang's piano CD "Children of Yellow River." Wei has played with major philharmonic groups in China and has performed in France, Italy, Germany, United States, Switzerland, Belgium, Japan.

She has also been featured in major TV shows in China and overseas. Wei has published many books on how to play the Gu Zheng and has lectured to Gu Zheng masters.

In Saturday's performance, Wei played songs titled *Deep Dark Nights, Xijiang Love Song, Reflection of a Dream* and the *Look of Love*.

But the show's biggest hit—at least among the children in the audience—was the man with the changing faces.

"I like that part of it," said 10-year-old Jennifer Tan, referring to Xu Chao's seemingly magical process of changing his face at the flick of a finger.

Chao, who graduated from Sichuan Provincial Art Academy, is currently an actor with the Chong Qing Sichuan Opera Troupe. His face-changing acts have taken him to Korea, the Philippines, Australia Europe and Hong Kong. He performed at the recent Beijing Olympics Opening ceremony.

Face changing, or "bian lian" in Chinese, started 300 years ago. Only a few performers master this skill, which has been secretly passed down from generation to generation. Face changers are able to change their opera masks magically in quick succession simply with the nod of their heads or flick of their arms —they can do up to 10 changes within seconds.

Sichuan-style face changing acts express different human emotions including anger, sadness and happiness, while the spitting of fire from Sichuan face changing is different from the acrobatic fire spitting. It is usually done to chase away evil spirits.

"It was really a very nice show. We liked it so much," said parent Ericka Frink, who came with her three kids.

Other performers were the acrobatics of the man with the "rolling lamp, Wu Xi, and his comedienne partner, Qi Wang.

Playing the character Pijin, Wu captured the audience with his witty style of balancing a flaming bowl on his head. Rolling lamp acrobatic stunts is a

See SICHUAN on Next Page

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'Miura did not say a word, but gave photo-op'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura did not say a word to Assistant Attorney General Jeffery Warfield Sr. on his last day on Saipan. However, just before leaving, the Japanese businessman gave Warfield a souvenir—a photo opportunity.

Warfield, who handled the extradition case against Miura, joined four Los Angeles Police Department detectives and local law enforcers in escorting the 61-year-old Miura to the Saipan airport's tarmac early Friday morning.

As LAPD detectives led Miura to the Continental Airlines plane for the first leg of his journey to Los Angeles, Warfield, Assistant Attorney General Joseph Taijeron and Immigration Maj. Edward Cabrera were seen having photographs of themselves with Miura.

Warfield

In an interview with the mostly Japanese media shortly after the plane took off, Warfield said that Miura didn't really say anything to him.

"He gave us some photo opportunity as he got on the plane. Seems like he enjoys the media attention. He seems quiet, calm, quite relaxed," the prosecutor said.

After learning of Miura's reported suicide in his cell in L.A., Warfield told *Saipan Tribune* Saturday night that Miura's death is "truly a tragedy."

It was Maj. Cabrera who arrested Miura at the Saipan airport last Feb. 22 after an Immigration officer called him about the Japanese businessman's presence at the airport.

"We did some checks to verify certain documents, make sure that documents are in order. I proceeded up here [airport] and placed him under arrest," Cabrera told the media.

Cabrera said Miura was placed in the Immigration system's database as among those they should be looking for.

The major stated that he feels relieved that the extradition was finally over.

"Miura went through a fair process and he now gets to go back to California and start a new chapter in his judicial proceedings," Cabrera said.

Less than 24 hours after his arrival at the Los Angeles International Airport on Friday (LA time), Miura was reportedly found hanging in his cell.

Only one bet shows up at delegate forum

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Three of the four invited candidates for congressional delegate on Sunday snubbed a forum sponsored by an organization made up of mostly Filipino-Americans in the Commonwealth.

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, or CREAM, invited John Oliver Gonzales, Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Pete A. Tenorio, and Juan T. Lizama—the four top vote getters in a mock election the group conducted last month.

However, only Sablan showed up. Gonzales and Tenorio sent word to the group that they could not make it because of prior engagements. For his part, Lizama yesterday told the *Saipan Tribune* he did not attend because of a previous appointment, and also because he disapproved of CREAM's decision to invite only four of the candidates, and not all of them.

CREAM chairman Gus Loste said his organization is grateful to Sablan for taking time to meet its members. "His attendance showed he recognizes the needs of our group and that he is running not just to represent certain segments of the community, but the Commonwealth as a whole," he said.

RELATED NEWS
Delegate forum tonight, all 9 candidates present. **PAGE 5**

CREAM initiated the forum in a bid to interact with the candidates and make an endorsement based on their responses. Even with only one participant, CREAM proceeded with the event, quizzing Sablan on issues including immigration, land ownership, education, and utility service.

Loste said the group was satisfied with Sablan's answers, particularly to the organization's call for inclusion in the policy-making process. Yet, the group is still talking about whom to endorse; it expects to announce its choice next week.

Most of the members of the coalition are Filipino-Americans and registered voters in the Northern Marianas. The group also includes people of other nationalities who have U.S. citizen children that are registered voters in the Commonwealth.

Over 350 members participated in the group's mock election. Results show that Gonzales received 53 percent of the votes, Sablan 20 percent, Tenorio 8 percent, and Lizama 7 percent. The remainder was divided among the five other candidates: Sen. Luis Crisostimo, former senator David Cing, businessman Chong Won, Saipan municipal council Felipe Atalig, and high school teacher John Davis.

SICHUAN

From Page 2

classic clown play of the Sichuan Opera. The clown performs complex physical comedy while balancing a flaming bowl on his head and contorting his body in amazing ways without knocking the flaming bowl off his head.

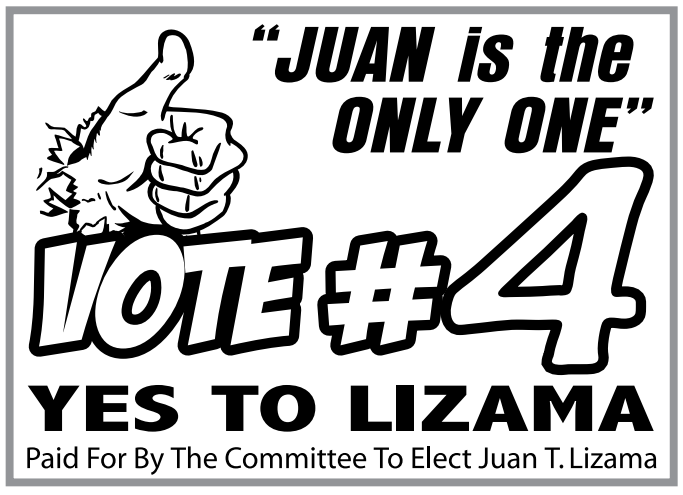
Other featured actors were Xi Wu and Chao Xu, who performed a skit called the hunter and his love.

Mickey Coleman said he liked the part where another magician and his lady partner threw candies to the audience, referring to Mingxiao Qin and Jinfen Yao, who concluded the night with their magic tricks.

Qin and Yao are a famous husband-and-wife magician team from Beijing who have been performing together since the 1960s. They performed on CCTV major events, magic shows in China and foreign countries. They are members of the International Magic Society.

They have been awarded "The Best Magician" by the American International Magician Society.

The show was sponsored by the Pacific Trading, Pepsi, PTI, Saipan Shipping and Saipan Grand Hotel. It was organized by the 2008 SOC China National Arts Group Performance Program.



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PUBLIC NOTICE
October 14, 2008

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its acting chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors will hold a Special Meeting, tomorrow, October 15, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. QC PROGRAM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
1. Proposed Amendments to QC Rules & Regulations

IV. RECONSIDERATION OF RPEVIOUS BOARD ACTION ON ROTA PROPERTY

V. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Director

FITIAL

From Page 1

Miura, who committed suicide in a Los Angeles jail shortly after his extradition from Saipan last weekend.

Fitial in a statement also expressed relief that the suicide did not occur under the watch of the local government. He praised the CNMI Office of the Attorney General and the CNMI Department of Corrections "for properly handling this case in a professional manner pursuant to law, affording Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura all of the rights and protections he was entitled to under CNMI law. "

"I am especially thankful for the careful precautions, procedures, discipline, and professionalism of our CNMI Department of Corrections staff for ensuring that this type of tragedy did not occur on CNMI soil through any form of negligence," the governor said.

"I pray for the soul of Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura and I send my deepest condolences to his wife and family," he added.

Media attention

While passing no opinion on Miura's guilt or innocence in the late wife-murder suspect, Fitial noted that the criminal case has "captivated [the] interest and attention" of many people in the CNMI, including those who were not initially aware of the facts and the circumstances surrounding Miura's indictment.

"We were amazed by the enormous Japanese media attention this case brought to our islands and, as our government lawfully and dutifully processed California's extradition request, many of our citizens could not help but closely follow the case. And as a result of our islands' involvement in the case, I believe it is fair to say that many people in the CNMI were shocked by the recent turn of events following Mr. Miura's entry into Los Angeles," he said.

Like many people in Japan, Fitial said, many of the local residents had expected a full trial to determine Mr. Miura's guilt or innocence and put a proper end to the case.

"From the beginning, however, our government had no official opinion of Mr. Miura's guilt or innocence," he said. "Our government's sole interest in this case was to assist California law enforcement authorities in its pursuit of justice and to follow the requirements of law. Because we respect the judicial process and the sensitivity of this case to the people of Japan, we are disappointed that the matter will not be properly adjudicated in California's courts of law."

Extradition

Miura was arrested at the Saipan airport on Feb. 22, 2008 for the killing of his wife in Los Angeles in 1981. For seven months, he fought his extradition to California, where he had been cleared of murder but was still facing a charge for conspiracy to commit murder.

After losing the extradition case in the CNMI Superior and Supreme courts, he brought the legal battle to the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. On Sept. 29, 2008, he gave up on the extradition case and vowed to continue his fight in California. Escorted by detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department, Miura left Saipan early Friday morning and arrived in Los Angeles on the same day (LA time). Less than 24 hours later, he was reportedly found hanging in his cell.

Japanese O.J.

Miura's case has long been a high-profile saga in Japan, where Miura was dubbed "the Japanese O.J. Simpson." His extradition had drawn journalists to Los Angeles from dozens of foreign media outlets, some from as far away as Bangkok, Thailand, Tokyo and Saipan, the U.S. territory Miura had been visiting when he was taken into custody in February.

Mark Geragos, Miura's attorney, who spoke from New York, said he was notified of his client's death about 12:15 a.m. Saturday by the district attorney's office. "None of this makes any sense," Geragos said.

He said a lawyer had visited with Miura earlier and that he was in good spirits, complaining only about a little back pain. "There was no indication that he was despondent or depressed," Geragos said. "There was no indication whatsoever of problems.

"He was ready and girded for the fight," Geragos said of his client.

Geragos said he will demand an independent investigation. He said he was upset because he had not "gotten a straight or cogent explanation about what happened."

Jail procedures

According to California Minimum Jail Standards, cell inspections are required every 30 minutes. Based on preliminary information, authorities said that detention officers assigned to the portion of the jail housing Miura had conducted a required cell check and found nothing unusual. About 10 minutes later, an officer passing Miura's cell "saw what Miura had done," Beck said.

The officer immediately requested help, and along with two other officers rushed into the cell to administer CPR to Miura. Medical personnel from the jail dispensary assisted them.

Los Angeles Fire Department personnel responded as well to continue life-saving efforts.

Thorough investigation

Beck said the department's Force Investigation Division would conduct a "thorough investigation," which will be reviewed by Chief William J. Bratton, the department's Inspector General and the Los Angeles Police Commission. The County Coroner's office will also investigate the cause of death.

Miura was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday on a charge of conspiracy to commit murder.

Prosecutors believe Miura conspired to kill his wife and collect $750,000 in life insurance payments, possibly by signaling someone to shoot, although no one else has been charged in connection with the shooting. ***(With the Los Angeles Times)***

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CNMI

From Page 1

150 more jobs available at the plant, according to a grandson of company founder Aaron Rubashkin.

According to an e-mail from Shalom Rubashkin Jr., who works at the plant's sales department, their workers from the CNMI did not come directly from Saipan. He did not elaborate.

He said citizens from Micronesia such as Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the CNMI can apply for 150 more jobs available at the plant.

There are about 950 Agriprocessors employees at its Iowa plant.

Earlier, the Minister of State of Palau, Temmy Shmull, said during an official visit on Saipan that the management of the plant told him that they need 150 more workers.

In May this year, U.S. immigration officials raided the plant's compound for illegal workers and lodged several complaints against the management of the company.

Rubashkin noted that as of Sept. 8, there were about 130 Palauans who started working at the plant, with all types of jobs such as in laundry, trucking, beef, poultry, etc.

He said Minister Shmull met with the manager of beef Brent Beebe, Palauan workers' representative Webster Franz and Heshy Rubashkin. He said they discussed the working conditions of the workers like housing.

Shumull stated that the Palauans are in good condition and well protected under U.S. labor regulations.

Rubashkin said the Palauan Ambassador to the US, Hersey Kyota, accompanied Shmull on his visit.

Saipan Tribune obtained a copy of a letter to the Chief of the Division in Palau Russel Masayos, written by Gening Liao, Assistant General Counsel of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

The letter, Rubashkin said, tried to scare the Palauans from coming to Iowa.

Agriprocessors, UCFW told Masayos, was recently raided by the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and as a result, "a series of shocking allegations against Agriprocessors have come to light, including unlawful child labor, sexual harassment of female workers and the physical abuse of workers."

The letter also enumerated numerous violations, citing articles in the *Des Moines Register* that were allegedly committed by Agriprocessors following the raid.

UFCW told the Palau labor office that "as a responsible government agency, we urge you to reconsider referring workers to a potentially dangerous workplace until the allegations surrounding Agriprocessors are resolved."

Rubashkin said the family and friends of Agriprocessors have created their own website to counter the media blitz against the company.

For a little background history, he explained that in 2006 the UFCW, one of the various unions in the U.S.A., "tried to unionize the plant. When they realized that the employees weren't going along with it, they started what's called a 'corporate campaign' against Agriprocessors, and in short misrepresent facts to try harm the company's business."

"Unfortunately the American media is very sympathetic to unions in general, and hence these one-sided articles," he said.

Rubashkin clarified, though, that he is not authorized to speak on behalf of the company, saying he is writing from a personal perspective to clarify issues and answer several inquiries from *Saipan Tribune*.

TINIAN

From Page 1

Manglona, 39, later died at a nearby hospital.

As military officials investigate the cause of his death, Manglona's friends and family on Saipan and Tinian are mourning his passing. On Monday, family members said they are now planning his funeral services but were not immediately available for comment.

Daily rosary will be held for Manglona at the San Vicente Church on Saipan after the 6pm Mass. On Tinian, a rosary will be held daily at his parents' house, at 7pm. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

According to news reports, Manglona had served in a reserve unit assigned to the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and was called to active duty in July.

In a letter, Command Sgt. Major Glenn Gomes said Manglona was a talented soldier and "one of our best and brightest leaders."

"He always placed the mission first," Gomes wrote. "He never accepted defeat. He never quit. And he would never leave a fallen comrade. …He will be sorely missed by his soldiers, his fellow NCOs, his company, and this entire command."

On Saipan, Manglona had served his community as a local police officer. His tour in Kuwait would have been the second deployment to Middle East of his military career.

$5,000 DONATION PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG

Tianyuan Overseas, the construction firm tasked with building a resort on Tinian for Bridge Investment Group, donated $5,000 to Tinian High School last month. Phillip Mendiola-Long, executive vice president of Bridge Investment Group, and Naizhue Liu, construction manager of Tianyuan Construction Group, present the check to Paul Turner, vice principal of Tinian High School Oct. 3.

Man gets 13-day term for domestic violence

The Superior Court has slapped a 13-day prison term on a man who beat up his wife during an argument at their house in Chinatown.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Jesus Ilo Seman to one year in prison, all suspended except for the first 13 days, for assault and battery.

Manglona sentenced the 32-year-old Ilo to one year in jail, all suspended except for the first 13 days, for interfering with a domestic violence report.

Following a plea agreement, the judge gave the defendant credit for the 13 days he has already served in prison.

The two sentences shall run concurrently, according to Manglona.

This means Ilo would be freed at once because he has already spent 13 days in jail after being arrested on Aug. 25, 2007.

Manglona placed the defendant on two years' probation and ordered him to pay a $250 fine, $25 in court assessment fee, $100 in annual probation service fee, and $230 in restitution.

Ilo was required to perform 60 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to the victim. He is barred from drinking alcohol during the entire probationary period.

Ilo and his lawyer, Assistant Public Defender Richard Miller, signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by Assistant Attorney General Michael Evangelista. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and interfering with a domestic violence report.

The beating happened in August 2007. Police said that prior to the incident, Seman and his wife were drinking at a nightclub in Garapan.

Later that morning, Seman woke up his wife and confronted her about her dress. This led to an argument. The defendant then punched his wife in the left ear.

Police said the wife tried to fight back, but Seman started throwing things at her. She, however, managed to duck.

Seman later threw a plastic bowl full of food, hitting her left shoulder.

When Seman walked back into the bedroom, the victim grabbed a cell phone and ran outside the house where she called police. Responding police officers arrested the defendant. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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Delegate forum tonight, all 9 candidates present

The nine candidates running to serve as the CNMI's first congressional delegate have all confirmed they will attend a forum hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce tonight, an event that will mark the first time every one of them has stood shoulder to shoulder on one stage.

At the first candidate forum of the election, held in Kagman, Saipan Municipal Councilman Felipe Atalig and Sen. Luis Crisostimo were both absent. Later, at a second forum, Crisostimo was missing yet again while his other eight competitors answered questions.

Tonight's forum will have a unique format. Members of the chamber, students at Northern Marianas College and members of the chamber's board have submitted questions they want they candidates to answer. Each question will be addressed to one candidate.

In a statement, the chamber's executive director, Kyle Calabrese, said organizers expect five rounds of questions, followed with 5-minute statements by each of the candidates.

It will be moderated by Chamber member Jon Anderson of Bridge Capital.

The forum will take place at the Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall at 6:30pm. Tickets for adults are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Students (with ID) may purchase tickets for $7 in advance and $10 at the door. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

Women fear rape in Russells

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Widespread lawlessness at Yandina in the Russell Islands is increasing, a woman leader from the area claimed.

And Catherine Keni accused the police there of not doing their job to address the problem.

The Russell Islands are located northwest of Guadalcanal and south of Isabel in the Solomon Islands. Some experts on the region blame the shortage of school facilities and scarcity of jobs on the increasing discontent of Solomons youth.

Keni, who arrived in Honiara on Tuesday, told the Solomon Star the situation is getting out of hand.

"There were incidents of attempted rape, people going around drunk, and armed men threatening women and children," Ms Keni said. "Most of them were unemployed people who have nothing to do there. They are the ones who seem to overtake the place. This is causing fear amongst the people there," she said.

Yandina is where the headquarters of the troubled Russell Islands Plantation Estates Limited was located.

The company closed its operations in copra and cocoa following an industrial dispute with workers. Keni said few weeks ago, drunkards chased her daughter, but she was lucky to escape unharmed.

And just last week, she said an attempted rape case occurred near the water pump area. She said all these were reported to the police there but they failed to take action.

Keni said the production and consumption of local homebrew, kwaso, are now out of control. "We women, our girls and our children are no longer feeling safe in our community," she said.

Worker nabbed after overstaying for 9 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An alien worker who has reportedly been overstaying in the CNMI for almost a decade was arrested last week after eluding Immigration officers for more than five years.

Longzhu Li, a Chinese, was brought before Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos last Friday. Assistant Attorney General Kathleen Busenkell represented the NMI government.

Inos imposed a $5,000 cash bail for Li's temporary liberty and ordered him to appear in court on Oct. 23 at 1:30pm to explain why he should not be deported.

Inos said the respondent should be released to two officers of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit's but only for the purpose of renewing his passport.

The judge remanded Li to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Court records show that in September 2002 the Division of Immigration filed a deportation case against Li after learning that his worker's entry permit had expired in June 1999.

A deportation hearing was set for March 13, 2003. Li did not show up in court that day.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman in that hearing granted the Attorney General's Office's request to issue a default judgment. The judge ordered Li's deportation.

In July 2005, Wiseman issued a bench warrant against Li after Immigration informed the court that the respondent has been eluding CNMI officials since 2003.

Immigration found out through the Border Management System that Li has not left the CNMI.

1st int'l garage sale opens

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@yahoo.com
REPORTER

The Garapan Street Market has become a way of life on Saipan, a Thursday event where sellers and customers meet. Last Saturday, another one has sprung up, with the same set up but with a different name, a different place, and different products for sale.

Biz Aid Saipan Enterprises, Inc. said the opening of the first international garage sale and flea market in front of Gentle Brook Café at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe last Saturday drew a big crowd.

"We call it international because anybody could sell any product except food items," explained Biz Aid administrative assistant Divine Sotto.

A total of 21 stall owners joined the sale, offering brand new and secondhand items that included clothing, shoes, computer gadgets, kitchen ware, fishing gear, children's toys, office supplies, and ladies accessories, among others.

The Susupe Flea Market would be a regular Saturday activity from 10am to 6pm.

Those who wish to put up displays at the flea market can contact Sotto at 234-7626 or 234-8088.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
A customer bargains with stall assistant Azumi Ishida at the opening of the first international garage sale at the Marianas Business Plaza last Saturday.

Sotto said several others have signified intention to put up their own stalls this coming Saturday along Akiba Street.

Space for a stall would cost $15 but there would be discounts depending on how long a seller wish to lease stall space.

A stall owner whose novelty items came directly from Japan said her sales have so far been good.

Another stall owner, Alex Doctor, said they easily sold out their used clothing stock.

Sotto said there would be free shuttle rides on the "chicken bus" from Garapan to the Marianas Business Plaza. The southbound shuttle buses leave Fiesta Resort at 10am, and at Kinpachi, Hafa Dai Beach Hotel, Saipan World Resort, and Saipan Grand Hotel in five-minute intervals. From the north, the shuttle buses will leave Pacific Islands Club at 10am, the Coral Ocean Point Resort at 10:05am and from Carmen Safeway at 10:25am and every hour.

Aside from the sellers, there would also be groups of youngsters to entertain customers.

Last Saturday, Project Impact and Final Extreme performed modern dances and put up a donation box in the area.

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities presents:

What Are Marine Monuments?

by

Professor Jon Van Dyke, J.D.

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park

The proposal to establish a Northern Marianas Marine Monument has generated considerable community debate. During his presentation, Professor Jon Van Dyke will explore a number of legal and practical issues relating to marine monuments including: What are the obligations of countries to establish marine protected areas under international law to protect rare and fragile ecosystems? What kinds of marine protected areas have been established in the United States and other countries? What is a "monument" under the U.S. Antiquity Act? What management procedures have been developed to govern marine protected areas and marine monuments? How is the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands governed? What activities are allowed and what problems have been identified? Is commercial fishing allowable in the marine protected area? What is the role of the community in governing marine protected areas? Professor Van Dyke will field questions from the audience at the conclusion of his talk.

Professor Van Dyke has been on the faculty of the University of Hawai`i School of Law since 1976 where he has taught Constitutional Law and International Law. Professor Van Dyke has written five books including *Sharing the Resources of the South China Sea* and *Freedom for the Seas in the 21st Century* which was awarded the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for 1994 by the International Studies Association. Since coming to Hawai`i, Professor Van Dyke has worked on problems related to the state's constitution, growth management, reapportionment, water rights, the status of Native Hawaiians, nuclear waste, ocean law, international environmental law, and human rights.

This event is a part of the Council's ongoing program "Article XII: Intent, Interpretations and Implications" supported by grant funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities under its We the People Initiative.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: August 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
August 24, 2008, Special Board Meeting

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
A. Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)
B. Status of Loan Programs
C. Other Loan Matters

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Chairman of the Board

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✓#8 Kilili for U. S. Delegate

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3 laborers sue for alleged labor law violations

Three laborers have filed a lawsuit in federal court against a recycling center for allegedly failing to pay them regular wages and overtime, as well as requiring them to pay processing fees.

Feiyi Tang, Anfeng Lin, and Anshun Lin sued Huang Zheng Corp. Ltd., operator of Recycling Center on Saipan, for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act and breach of contract.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Huang Zheng Corp. to pay their unpaid regular time and overtime. They also demanded liquidated damages, interests, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Huang Zheng Corp. operates the Recycling Center, which collects metals and other recyclable materials, packs such materials in a container and ships some to China.

Attorney Bruce Berline, lawyer for the plaintiffs, stated in the complaint that on Dec. 25, 2001, the defendant hired Tang and Anfeng Lin. On May 10, 2007 the company also hired Anshun Lin. Hired as laborers, the three were assigned to collect, sort, and pack recyclable materials.

Berline said the company fired both Anfeng Lin and Anshun Lin on Sept. 22, 2008.

The lawyer alleged that the workers were not properly compensated for their regular time and overtime in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

He said the defendant breached the contract in that the company improperly fired Anfeng Lin and Anshun Lin and has failed to pay their regular time and overtime.

Berline added that the workers were also required to pay application fees related to the yearly renewal of their employment application/contract. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES PTA meeting today

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting today, Oct. 14, 2008, 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

GTC PTA meeting

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School will hold a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

SHRM to host Diversity Conference

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management announced that the CNMI Chapter Diversity Conference is on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 8:30am to 1pm at the Giovanni's Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Guest speakers will include James Rayphand, executive director for NMPASI, and Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Cost for members is $20 and non-SHRM members is $25. Lunch and conference materials are included in the cost. ***(SHRM)***

MHS calendar of events

Oct. 14 MHS Community Council Meeting (PTA), 5:30pm at MHS cafeteria.

The MHS Class of 2008 yearbook is in. You can pick up your copy from the MHS main office, Monday-Friday, 3:30pm-5pm. For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

SSHS PTA meeting set

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Pedro Agulto Tenorio for Delegate
Working For You

As your Resident Representative I was able to secure funds to help our economy:

Funds paid directly to the CNMI Government
- 2003 – $10,000,000 for deficit reduction in the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act
- 2003 – Compact Impact increased from $500,000 to $5.1 million annually, totaling $25.5 million from 2003-2008.

Economic benefits paid directly to constituents and their families
- 2003 – Increased child tax credit to $1000 per child payable by US Treasury (authorized by the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act)
- 2008 – Stimulus payments $300 and up depending on marital status and dependents, payable by US Treasury.

Utilities
- 2004 and 2005 – Acquired $ 3 million for water infrastructure on top of annual Covenant funding.

Education
- 2007 – Increased annual Pell Grant allowances for college students from $4,500 a year to $5,400 a year.
- 2005 – Increased annual funding under the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act from $190,000 to $350,000

Health

Medicaid cap increases since 2002
- Increased from $2.1 million in 2002 to $4.580 million in 2007

Veterans

2008 New GI bill – to begin August 1, 2009
- Increased Tuition and fees equivalent to the amount charged by the most expensive in-state tuition charged at a public institution
- Increased monthly housing allowance and book and supply allowance.

Transportation
- 2005 Authorization for the Talofofo Bridge project $12 million
- 2005 Increased Territorial Highway funds to $50 million from $36 million, to be shared by the CNMI, Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa

Increased Eligibility
- Promoted and achieved eligibility for grants under the Office of Economic Adjustment in the Department of Defense.
- Promoted and achieved a set aside under the Higher Education Act for Asian and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions making it easier for Northern Marianas College to apply for Strengthening Institutions grants.

As your Delegate, I will continue to tap resources throughout the Federal Government to boost our ailing economy and help families throughout the CNMI who are suffering from the economic and energy crises affecting us all.

On November 4th, I humbly ask for your vote – PLEASE VOTE #5 Pedro Agulto Tenorio – WORKING FOR YOU!

This advertisement was approved by me, Pedro Agulto Tenorio. Paid for by the Commitee to Elect Pedro A. Tenorio - Delegate
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Guam woman wins top sales awards

AGANA, Guam—Lou Sablan of Nimitz Hill, an independent representative for Silpada Designs Jewelry, was awarded the fifth place position for Rookie Team Development and Rookie Recruiter at Silpada Design's National Conference in July.

Sablan's fifth place awards place her above over 1,900 U.S. women who joined Silpada's sales team in FY 2007.

Sablan has been a Silpada Designs Representative since September 2007 "and in that time has experienced exciting growth in her business," according to a Silpada press statement.

The Rookie Team Development Award is given to a new recruit who has successfully recruited, trained and developed a sales organization. The Rookie Recruiter Award is given to a new recruit who excelled in promoting Silpada Designs as evident by the number of recruits in her Team.

Sablan recruited10 new representatives and garnered over $140,000 in retail sales over a nine-month period, clinching her fifth place position nationwide.

According to information provided by the company, Silpada Designs is the fastest-growing jewelry direct sales company in the United States whose primary focus is offering a unique collection of .925 Sterling Silver Jewelry. Silpada Designs' is sold exclusively at home shows by independent representatives like Sablan throughout all 50 states, Canada and the U.S. territories.

"Silpada Designs offers its sales representatives flexibility to set their own hours, allowing them to spend precious time with their families while pursuing a rewarding and lucrative career that allows them to combine the satisfaction of being a business owner with a fun, social setting," the press statement said. ***(PR)***

Guam Silpada representative Lou Sablan placed fifth out of 1,900 U.S. women in her category at Silpada Design's National Conference this past July.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities presents:

Indigenous Land Rights in the Pacific

Views from Hawaii and the South Pacific

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park

Rights of Indigenous Peoples under US and International Law
Jon Van Dyke, J.D.
Professor of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Professor Van Dyke will examine a number of legal questions relating to indigenous rights. Who are indigenous peoples? What are their rights under the US Constitution and US laws? Are Native Hawaiians entitled to the same status under US law as other Native Americans? What are the rights of indigenous peoples under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and other treaties and documents? What is the right to self-determination? Is the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands self-governing? Is Guam? Do the indigenous peoples of the CNMI and Guam have separate or preferential rights, and if so, what are their rights? Do indigenous peoples have separate rights to the resources of coastal waters?

Constraints on Land Rights in the South Pacific: Ethnicity, Descent, Citizenship, Residence, Wealth and Need
Dr. Ron Crocombe
Professor Emeritus, University of the South Pacific

Dr. Crocombe will examine the principles and practices of land rights in the countries and territories of the South Pacific, and describe some advantages and disadvantages associated with particular approaches. The role of ethnicity, descent, citizenship, residence, wealth and need play in land rights will also be explored. Dr. Crocombe will also discuss some of the hazards to be aware of in making land policy and his observation that only the people of the country or territory concerned should decide on the rules that will govern their lives.

The Current Drive for Land Reform in the South Pacific
Dr. Ron Crocombe
Professor Emeritus, University of the South Pacific

In his second talk, Dr. Crocombe will discuss the current drive by the government of Australia for land policy reform throughout the Pacific Islands, the goals of that initiative and the means of accomplishing them, including $54 million set aside by Australia for the purpose. It also looks at earlier drives for reform and the reasons they have achieved relatively little so far.

This event is a part of the Council's ongoing program "Article XII: Intent, Interpretations and Implications"
supported by grant funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities under its We the People Initiative.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy 60th birthday to my wonderful husband and a loving dad and grandfather, Vicente C. Terlaje. We love you very much! Greetings come from your wife Maria, children and grandchildren!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Saipan Tribune

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 14, 1999

CUC holds off action on Saipan power plant
Independent experts yesterday unsealed the results of their months-long evaluation of various bids on the controversial Saipan power project that generally countered an earlier decision by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to award the $120 million contract to Marubeni-Sithe. But the CUC Board withheld its selection of the firm to build the 80-megawatt power plant for the next three months pending further review of the report made by Burns & McDonnell as well as an assessment of the need for the project with such a magnitude on the island.

Manglona quits from CUC board
Members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board yesterday elected a new secretary to replace board director Laura I. Manglona, who has apparently resigned following controversies surrounding her appointment. Frank T. Flores, a board director representing Saipan, assumed her post after more than two months since Manglona was elected by the same board last July.

Garapan Street Market unveiled
With the slowdown in the island's tourism economy, Garapan, the island's main commercial district, has seen a decline in business activity. But beginning Dec. 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., the "little Ginza" will have a new face with the establishment of a Garapan Street Market. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan commended efforts of various government agencies and the private sector to help revive the ailing tourism industry.

October 14, 2002

NMC eyes over $26M ADB loan
The Northern Marianas College is asking for over $26 million loan from the Asian Development Bank to finance the construction of new college facilities, including laboratories, dormitories and classrooms. NMC president Kenneth Wright, Ph.D., said the amount is half of the total project cost of $53 million. "I requested ADB half of that amount. We made a proposal to the ADB which is in the process. That would be a substantial amount of money that would help us construct the facility and get the equipment to train the teachers and so on. The other half, we've got to find a way to find that here within the CNMI," Wright said in an interview.

'Four-year courses not an NMC priority'
Offering more bachelor degree programs is possible but it is not a priority at this time at the Northern Marianas College, according to NMC president Kenneth Wright, Ph.D. "We have no immediate plans to offer more four-year programs. It's possible, but it's a big task that we're not prepared to do at this time," Wright said in an interview.

Secondary road repairs need millions
The Saipan Mayor's Office needs millions of dollars to finance the paving of all secondary roads on the island, Mayor Juan B. Tudela said. In an interview, Tudela said that the Laulau Road repair and pavement alone, costs about $1 million. "For this single project alone, we already need $1 million. This covers the paving [and] drainage work," he said.

October 14, 2003

'What about our businesses?'
Garapan business owners lament lack of govt concern

Shop owners on Third Street in Garapan have expressed dismay over the government's alleged lack of concern for them in view of impending business disruptions brought on by the planned construction of a $6.4-million pedestrian mall in the area. Made in Saipan store manager Wendy Kim said that, while she welcomes the mall project, she is certain it would mean losses for business during the expected nine-month construction period.

PBDC to reorganize, invite Hawaii back
The Pacific Basin Development Council will reorganize and implement needed reforms to ensure its viability and regional responsiveness, according to its current president, CNMI Gov. Juan N. Babauta. Babauta, who recently convened a semi-annual PBDC conference on Saipan, said that part of the plan is to invite Hawaii back to the organization.

'Singing V' contest draws karaoke fans to Club V

Tuesday is no longer just another regular day for members of the Filipino community, with the "Singing V at Club V" competition at the Saipan Grand Hotel now a habit, an event to look forward to every Tuesday night.

A local take on the popular TFC program "Singing Bee," weekly contestants compete to guess the correct lyrics to popular songs to take home gift certificates, cash prizes, San Miguel Beer memorabilia, and bragging rights.

Last week, Michelle Villarasa held her own against a field of six to emerge again as the week's champion. Villarasa, of R&V Construction, blew away the competition by correctly singing four lines of the lyrics to an Evanescence song. It was pure bonus that she also is a powerful singer, her confident soprano soaring over the hubbub of voices inside Club V.

Later, her prizes clutched in her hand, Villarasa said she was nervous but forced herself to relax so she'd remember the lyrics to the songs. The technique apparently worked, as this was the second straight week for Villarasa to walk off with the grand prize.

Oscar Yema, Saipan Grand's events manager, said that contestants do not have to sing the lyrics to win. "Similar to the TV competition, the 7th Side Band will sing part of the song and the contestants will have to provide the missing lyrics. You can sing it but you may also just say it. If you guess the lyrics correctly, you win."

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Michelle Villarasa holds her own against a field of six to emerge again as the week's champion.

In last Tuesday's edition, six contestants first had to guess one line of a song. Only four made it to the second round, where they had to guess two lines. The third round featured the top two contestants, and each had to guess three lines of a song. The eventual winner then had a face-off with Villarasa, the defending champion, where they had to guess—or sing—four lines of the lyrics of a song.

It was a fast-paced contest, with Yema and cohosts DJ RV and DJ Zyra of KWAW radio station chivvying the contestants along to ensure there will be no lull during the allotted 45 minutes for the competition.

To join the contest is easy enough. SaipanCell subscribers need only text their names to 25828 (CLUBV) to become a competitor. Non-SaipanCell subscribers may still join by just showing up at Club V on Tuesday night and expressing one's intention to join the contest at the gate so your name will be included on the list.

Besides Villarasa, past winners of the competition were Alex of Viralicci, who lasted one week, and Tina of SmartStart, who made it through three weeks. Yema said there are still lots of chances to win as Club V plans to hold a total of 13 episodes of the contest.

Yema said all contestants accumulate prizes each week and the eventual champion after 13 episodes will have amassed a significant amount of in-kind and cash prizes.

"All contestants, even those who don't win, will each receive a $10 SaipanCell call card. There are also San Miguel Beer giveaways, free hotel rooms, and lunch buffets at the Aoi Restaurant of Saipan Grand Hotel," said Yema. The top two winners each week will also get $100 worth of gift certificates from the Macatangay DermHealth Clinic.

During the face off itself between the top winner and the defending champion, a correct guess is equivalent to a $20 cash prize, for a maximum of five.

What's more, in two week's time, Shell Marianas will be getting in on the act, with all weekly contestants getting a $10 gas card, according to Yema.

This means anyone joining the competition is already assured of a $10 SaipanCell call card and a $10 Shell gas card.

"Come to Club V on Tuesday night and join the fun. This is the kind of event that you and your friends would enjoy, even if only on a dare. Even if you don't win, you're already assured of bringing home some prizes," urged Yema.

Singing V at Club V is sponsored by San Miguel Beer, SaipanCell, Macatangay Dermhealth Clinic, KWAW, and Saipan Grand Hotel. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

From left, Saipan Grand Hotel events manager Oscar Yema and cohosts DJ RV and DJ Zyra of KWAW radio station.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Death Announcement

SSG. MANGLONA,
JULIAN FRANCIS AQUININGOC
was called to his eternal rest October 9, 2008 at the age of 39.

We invite all families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the passing of our beloved.

Daily Rosary as follows:
- **Saipan**, San Vicente Church
  6:00 p.m. Mass, with Rosary immediately after.
- **Tinian**, Mr. & Mrs. Ben & Rita Manglona's Residence (Chapel)
  Rosary: 7:00 p.m.

Funeral arrangements will be announced on a later date.

Please join us.

From Brenda Cabrera Manglona, Children and Families

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 288

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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Put country first

In ordinary times, with just over three weeks before Election Day, no one would expect the presidential candidates to think of anything but maximizing their political advantage. These are not ordinary times.

The financial crisis has entered uncharted and frightening territory. The value of almost everything — houses, stocks, retirement funds — seems to have plunged to levels that can't be easily explained, resisting one "fix" after another. More alarming, the credit freeze has resisted all remedies attempted so far. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke have labored stoutly to contain the crisis, prescribing radical prescriptions without regard to past ideology or politics, and President Bush has backed them at every step. But Bush is so unpopular that his words of reassurance do not soothe, and Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain are locked in an increasingly poisonous campaign. The resulting leadership vacuum exacerbates the sense of confusion. This would be a fine time for the candidates to really put country first.

What would that mean in practice? No one expects the candidates to propose 10-point plans guaranteed to fix the problem. Events are moving too swiftly, and neither McCain nor Obama can substitute themselves for the officeholders now in charge. But it would be reassuring if they acknowledged through their behavior that they know something fundamental is going on. In the face of crisis, both have hewed largely to their scripts as written, as if nothing has changed and the priorities they formulated a year ago remain viable today. There is something disturbingly disconnected about these responses, which assume, incorrectly, that the next president will not have to make painful trade-offs. Just to toss away those scripts would help confirm their understanding of a new reality.

The economic collapse raises broad questions that the candidates might grapple with. To what extent should the United States continue to depend on foreign credit to prop up the economy, and how do the candidates propose to reduce this reliance or to respond if foreign investors balk? If the era of easy credit is over, how would the candidates find the right balance between over-intrusive regulation that stifles investment and innovation and the anything-goes, market-knows-best mentality the current crisis is blamed on? Like it or not, the U.S. government that one of them will lead will be a principal owner of a sizable share of the U.S. economy. What are the implications of that? What principles will guide them as they buy, manage and sell these assets?

We think that most Americans would not be troubled to hear the candidates admit that they don't have all the answers, if they were doing their best to learn — to solicit advice and wisdom from the smartest people around, in academia and business, in the United States and beyond. Most Americans also would be relieved if the candidates were not seeking tit-for-tat advantage from the crisis but were cooperating with Paulson and Bernanke to ease the panic. Such an apolitical stance might even prove politically wise.

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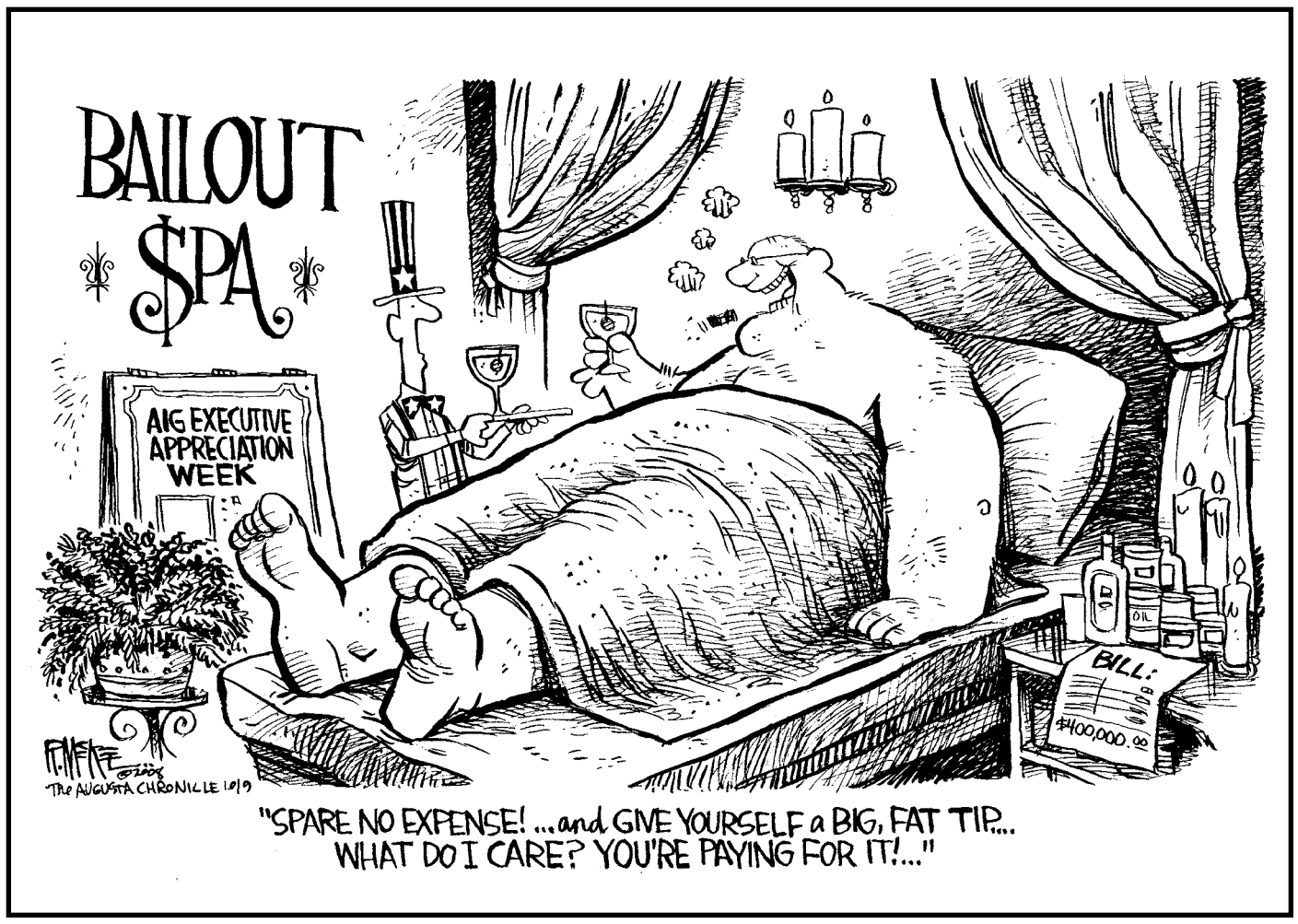


Still undecided? Then just don't vote

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail him at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.*

Don't vote. People will try to guilt you into it, but stay strong and resist. I'm talking to all of you who don't feel strongly about either presidential candidate, not just those 80 undecided idiots seated at Tuesday's town hall-style debate. Those people just crave attention and are way too proud of skimming enough Google News headlines to formulate a question. Give each a hug and a Debate Attendee diploma and I bet they'll pick a candidate real fast.

Voting is not an act of charity. It doesn't help anyone else. It's an entirely selfish act of expressing your opinion and asking for policies you want. If your mere opinion added to our nation's well-being, it would be patriotic to take telemarketing calls. And I'd read the e-mails you send me.

A high voter turnout doesn't make our democracy work better. Canada typically has a turnout of more than 75 percent, and it has yet to pick a leader anyone's heard of. If voting truly helped other people, you'd get an orange drink and cookies along with that "I voted" sticker.

Almost half of those who are eligible won't vote this year, and that nonparticipation is a legitimate expression of feelings about our political system. You'll be saying that none of the contenders convinced you but that your vote is available next time to someone who does. It's what I say every week to "American Idol."

Almost half of those who are eligible won't vote this year, and that nonparticipation is a legitimate expression of feelings about our political system. You'll be saying that none of the contenders convinced you but that your vote is available next time to someone who does. It's what I say every week to "American Idol."

Organizations that try to increase voter turnout—Rock the Vote, HeadCount, the New Voters Project, the League of Women Voters and the Dorky Self-Important Guy Whose Office Is Near Yours—will try to guilt you into casting a ballot. Most will use the scare technique of telling you that if you don't vote, you will forfeit your right to complain, which, if there had just been some Jews at the Constitutional Convention, would have been ensured by an 11th Amendment.

But I'm pretty sure that not voting is the safest way to assure your right to complain. Because if you do vote, the odds are slightly better than even that you're going to vote for the winner, which will ruin your ability to gripe about him. If I were John McCain, I'd put all my money behind ads that say, "Vote for me so you can complain for the next four years."

Last week, a heap of celebrities appeared in an online video, self-produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, sarcastically telling people not to vote. After DiCaprio, Ashton Kutcher, Natalie Portman, Usher, Demi Moore, Tobey Maguire and Ellen DeGeneres told you not to vote, Courteney Cox asked, "Who cares about your children's education?" Jamie Foxx added, "Who cares about global warming?" Halle Berry: "Don't vote. Unless you care about health care." Forest Whitaker mentioned welfare and the minimum wage, and Dustin Hoffman talked about gay rights and abortion rights. Then they all pretended they were going to wait around on screen until you click over to a site that will register you to vote. The superior, self-satisfied tone of the video not only made me not want to vote for president, it caused me to throw away my Writers Guild awards ballot.

Such campaigns to increase voter registration all seem disingenuous because they are. There's a reason all the organizations trying to increase the number of voters are full of liberals. It's because poor people, minorities, the undereducated and the young are the least likely to register; the higher the turnout among those groups, the better the Democrats do. The reason no one is trying to "Country Music the Vote" is because George Strait fans already vote. We don't "Rap the Vote" because the only words that rhyme with "vote" are the Democratic-unfriendly "Swift boat," "zygote" and "sports coat."

But it's not only the political scheming of Democrats. The entire ruling class wants you to vote for the same reason dictators claim a 100 percent turnout: Casting a ballot tricks you into believing you have as equal a stake in the power structure as the rich and connected. It's a basic political-science axiom that citizens are less likely to revolt if they feel they determined who gets to look down Arianna Huffington's blouse at political soirees.

So feel free not to vote. Just remember, if so many groups' main objective really were to strengthen democracy, America would have gotten rid of the electoral college by now.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Confidence: It's all in the mind—and always has been

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

The Northern Marianas is as far away from Wall Street as any state or territory under the American flag can be. Wall Street investors and those around the world from Berlin to Tokyo and all the places in between have already lost many millions, indeed trillions of dollars in stock market values. Do you know to how much "only" one (1) trillion dollars equates? The enormity of a trillion dollars is almost impossible for the average person to conceive. It is an astronomical thousand billions, ($1,000,000,000,000). To maintain a degree of perspective, the U.S. national debt now stands at a mind-numbing $10.25 trillion, and still climbing, prompting U.S. Sen. John D. Rockefeller (D. W.Va.) to state, "We have a government that has no money."

In addition to being broke, the United States has seriously eroded its international financial standing as a result of its trade and account deficit, which are sustained only because foreign entities such as China purchased U.S. stocks, bonds and other assets. At least they did—we have to wait and see what position they will take in the coming months.

For many people their 401k or IRA savings for their children's college, or money to meet the next payroll or make necessary equipment purchases, plan for their retirement—or whatever—has evaporated like so much smoke. But you already know that if you have listened to, or read the news. What happened? The money was there last month—the value of your house was worth more last month than this month. How can that be? Let's step back and look at what happened.

Imagine a person on Wall Street sitting 30 or 40 floors up in a skyscraper staring at a computer screen reading the financial statements of a particular company and comparing the financial condition of that firm with others in the same industrial or business sector. We call that person a stock or market analyst. There are thousands like him or her. Such a person will attempt to predict market trends and recommend business action often either to buy, sell or hold stock. To do this the person will often use a combination of tools known as ratios. Let's look at a couple of widely used ratios used to evaluate stock.

A financial or accounting ratio is a ratio (comparison) of selected values on a firm's financial statements with other values. There are many standard ratios used to evaluate the overall "apparent" condition or worth of a corporation or business.

We hear a lot lately about liquidity. Liquidity ratios measure the availability of cash to pay debts. Debt ratios measure a firm's ability to repay long-term debt. Market ratios measure investor response to owning a particular company's stock and the cost of issuing stock.

Say, for instance that the analyst mentioned above is aware of stock which has been valued at $30 per share. It has remained at that price for some time—all other factors being equal and the status quo of the general economy and that particular industry remain without significant change. It is assumed that the stock at that time is worth $30 per share. Along comes a bid from someone somewhere willing to buy at $35 per share. The owner sells and makes $5 on his original $30 investment. This is somewhat an over simplified for the point I wish to make but generally the stock market works that way—buying and selling stock ownership in businesses all over the world.

But we have watched in dismay as banks and investment houses fail one after the other like so many falling dominoes and wiping out untold millions in wealth in the form of housing values, 401k retirement funds and more.

What happened to the money? Who has it? Does Saudi Arabia, China or some unknown entity have it? No. It isn't anywhere—it was all an illusion as long as people had confidence in an economy where one could buy and sell and things retained or increased their value. In the example cited, someone thought the $30 stock was worth $35 and purchased it at that price. If many such transactions like that would follow, the value of the stock across the board will have increased in value. In this instance only because someone had the confidence that it was worth $5 more.

As Yale economist Robert Shiller points out, "The notion that one loses a pile of money whenever the stock market fails is a 'fallacy'. Stock has never been the same as money—it was always only a 'best guess' of what someone, or some group, thought it was worth."

An example might be an appraiser who values a house at $250,000, a week after saying it was worth $300,000. What happened to the $50,000 that disappeared? Nothing happened to it—it was all in the mind of an appraiser.

But something is disappearing as markets and real estate values go south and that "something" was the future "potential money" we were all counting on. In terms of housing it would be called appreciation for those owning the land in fee simple.

"Still, one runs into trouble when you think of that 'potential money' (now lost) as being the same as cash in your pocket or in your checking account," so says Dale Jorgenson, Harvard professor of economics. "We're gonna have a huge shrinkage in the financial sector. It's lost and it's not coming back."

It was all built on confidence. Confidence that prices would continue to rise and things would always get better. But the confidence is gone and that, my friends, is the really serious matter.

No one really knows where it will all end.

Of course, with everyone sharing the same illusion of wealth, inflated housing values and many other things, the trick was to know when to get out of the market, thus making a reality of the illusion and not waiting to wake up poorer than when you went to sleep, thinking it's all a bad dream. For many who waited—and stayed in the market a bit too long—the illusion of wealth is no more.

One often hears the expression "fair market value" as applied to real estate. What does it mean?

Realtors will tell us it's the price agreed upon between a willing and informed seller and a willing and informed buyer under ordinary circumstances. Fair market value is the highest price estimated in terms of money which property will bring if exposed for sale on the open market within a reasonable time allowed to find a purchaser who buys with knowledge of all the uses and purposes to which the property is best adapted and for which it can be legally used.

The financial manipulators who conceived the sale of subprime mortgages to people who could not otherwise qualify for a loan and who did not meet the above criteria, those financiers turned the theory upside down and brought about the collapse of the financial system as we have known it. They committed an economic crime the likes of which this country has never seen.

One thing is certain: America is changing and things will never again be the same. The year 2008 will go down in history as a watershed year in the nation's economic history.

I was a preteen during the Great Depression. I remember it and I fear history may be repeating itself as history is often wont to do. I hope I'm wrong.

Letter to the Editor

Bad strategy: The 'We-Can-Fix-It-Later' syndrome

We seem to have this insidious attitude prevalent in our legislators. There are 20 members in the House of Representatives and the majority of these folks are infected with this sickness. A House bill is sent to committee for comments. Theoretically, the House is supposed to have public hearings, solicit comments from affected agencies, deliberate on these comments and responses, consider the committee report, modify the bill to reflect the concerns of the public and then pass it if they are so inclined. If, after all of this, the legislators feel the bill is not good, they can file it.

What actually is a predominant attitude in these legislative manipulations seems to be, "OK, we've identified the faults in this bill, but let's pass it and we can fix these problems later with amendments." Rather than rewriting the bill and addressing the problems, the legislators provide themselves with more work later, thus perpetuating their careers; the necessity for a full-time Legislature; and particularly the expense to you and me, the taxpayers. I believe deception of this type is called *fraud*.

Case in point: The CUC privatization bill (HB 16-77, HSL, HD6, SD1) becomes Public Law 16-17 *through veto override*. This is the third attempt at legislating the privatization of CUC. The public, the Office of the Public Auditor, CUC, the administration, and the legislators know what the flaws in this legislation are. They are as follows:

■ The legislation says that the minimum bid requirement is $250 million, but no professional and independent appraisal was ever made to verify that figure. Where did this number come from?

■ This law limits the procurement process to bids only, prohibiting Requests for Proposals, RFPs. Selecting a company to assume the responsibility for providing the Saipan community with dependable power based on a dollar amount only is not conducive to a lasting solution. RFPs require that the bidder provide the company's qualifications and performance record. A bid does not. Purportedly, the bids-only procedure was to decrease protests by competing bidders, but sometimes these protests are healthy and do lead to better services. To select a company that can supply dependable, reliable power for Saipan on cost alone is foolish. It is imperative that the company have technical expertise; experience with similar projects; and documented proof of previous performance. Bids are only a dollar amount. RFPs allow analysis and the application of good judgment.

■ PL 16-17 provides no changes in the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of the governing board of CUC. Persons appointed to previous boards with these same instructions and qualifications definitely contributed to our current state of emergency.

Some legislators felt that the override is necessary to prevent another declaration of the "state of emergency" by the governor and that the Legislature would be powerless to prevent this. This is pure ignorance and laziness. Simple legislation could be passed that would prohibit sole-sourcing of the privatization of CUC by the governor. Who stands to benefit from sole-sourcing? Some legislators?

I firmly believe that the CNMI should govern its state-like activities without interference from the feds. But all states and territories must consider their actions in light of the U.S. federal reaction. Just days ago, Nick Pula from the Office of Insular Affairs responded to questions about whether the feds could help us with our power generation problems. He said yes, but only if a clear plan could be locally generated to request and justify the assistance needed. He also cautioned against the override as it could be viewed by OIA as meaning that the CNMI does not need assistance. This legislative override ignores this advice. I think that's foolish bravado.

The override vote was 15 in favor and 3 opposed. Opposed were Reps. Ed Salas, Christina Sablan, and Frank DelaCruz. Oscar Babauta abstained from voting. Ray Yumul was absent. The following representatives apparently have the WCFIL syndrome; David Apatang, Diego Benavente, Joseph De Leon Guerrero, Victor Hocog, Raymond Palacios, Justo Quitugua, Joseph Reyes, Ramon Tebuteb, Stanley Torres, Arnold Palacios, Joseph N. Camacho, Heinz Hofschneider, and Rosemond Santos. Remember these names at election time.

The major responsibility of any House of Representatives is to formulate a detailed budget for government operations for each fiscal year. The CNMI fiscal year begins on October 1 of the preceding calendar year. The process begins with proposed budgets based on anticipated government revenues being submitted by the Executive Branch, the Senate, semi-autonomous agencies, and the judiciary to the House. Then the House, after much deliberation, identifies the amount to be allocated to each agency; how it is to be spent, i.e. personnel, equipment, supplies, contracts, etc.; and who has expenditure authority. Then it passes a budget bill.

To perform this task correctly, it is imperative that the proposed budgets be submitted in a timely manner. In the CNMI the proposed budgets are often submitted late, forcing the House to pass the budget without adequate time for deliberation. Therefore a shoddy bill is passed giving maximum reprogramming authority to expenditure authorities. The expenditure authorities, i.e. Senate bosses, Judiciary justices, and executive agency heads like this flexibility, but it means that the taxpayers' money can be spent somewhat arbitrarily and is spent with little fear of accountability. This opens the door for government corruption. HB 16-179—the FY 2009 Budget Act—was introduced on Oct. 1 and passed on Oct. 2, 2008. I, along with a few House of Representatives members, object to the one day given for deliberation on this extremely important piece of legislation. I also object to the stipulation in this act that our governor has reprogramming authority over $75 million of the taxpayers' money. For varying reasons this legislation was opposed by only four of the members of the House. Representatives Salas, Sablan, Hocog, and Babauta voted no. The rest voted yes. Remember the names of those who voted yes at election time.

For our legislators, being paid from our money, to spend an hour, 10 minutes or even less, debating whether or not to censure what was said about them on a local talk show is a criminal waste of taxpayers' money. Have the legislators forgotten about the guaranteed freedom of speech for which many of the framers of the Constitution died? Who instigated this hour-long, xenophobic discussion? It matters not. What really matters is that it happened in our Legislature. Shame on all of you!

Roger Ludwick
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

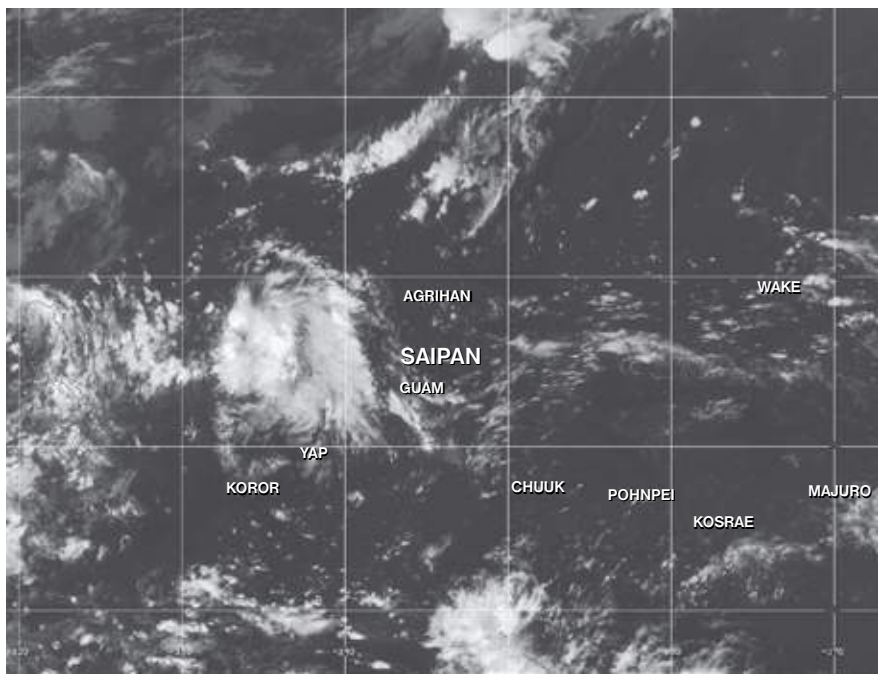
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼71
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼52
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼57
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Patly Sunny	▲64	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼59
Osaka	Rain	▲74	▼57
Paris	Cloudy	▲66	▼55
Pusan	Showers	▲75	▼55
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼57
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲68	▼48
Tokyo	Rain	▲67	▼60
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence combined with upper-level divergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Mariana Islands in an area from 12N to 19N between 133E and 142E. A surface trough extends northward from 5N145E to 16N145E with scattered showers near Guam and southeastward. Or within 125 miles of a line from 7N149E to 15N145E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands within 125 miles of a line from 5N168E to 7N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:58AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:04AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:08PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:55PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08AM	5:57 PM
Wednesday	6:09AM	5:57 PM
Thursday	6:09AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:09AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:09AM	5:55 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:20PM	5:12AM
Wednesday	6:04PM	6:10AM
Thursday	6:54PM	7:10AM
Friday	7:49PM	8:15AM
Saturday	8:49PM	9:21AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES			
Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS			
Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,141.900
Up 202.400
(+1.45%)

HONG KONG
15,275.67
Up 478.80
(+3.24%)

JAKARTA
1,401.901
Down 49.7679
(-3.43%)

TOKYO
8,276.43
Down 881.06
(-9.62%)

K. LUMPUR
934.68
Up 0.67
(+0.07%)

MANILA
2,118.75
Up 20.95
(+1.00%)

SINGAPORE
1,987.02
Up 38.69
(+1.99%)

SEOUL
1,288.52
Up 47.05
(+3.79%)

BANGKOK
466.70
Up 14.74
(+3.26%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,451.19
-128.00

NASDAQ
1,649.51
+4.39

S&P
899.22
-10.70

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.5192
British Pound	0.5879
Canadian Dollar	1.1762
Chinese Renmbi	6.8283
Euro	0.7401
Hong Kong Dollar	7.761
Indian Rupee	48.24
Indonesian Rupiah	9880
Japanese Yen	100.07
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5105
New Zealand Dollar	1.6863
Philippine Peso	47.385
Singapore Dollar	1.4741
South Korean Won	1243.5
Swiss Franc	1.1371
Taiwan Dollar	32.412
Thailand Baht	34.285

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Govt eyes plan to take ownership stakes in banks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told international leaders on Sunday that isolationism and protectionism could worsen the spreading financial crisis. With a new trading week dawning, U.S. lawmakers urged quick action by the Bush administration on measures to make direct purchases of bank stock to help unlock lending.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, said an administration proposal to inject federal money directly into certain banks, in effect partially nationalizing the banking system, "is gaining steam."

"I am hopeful that tomorrow, the Treasury will announce that they're doing it. And they have to do it quickly ... markets are waiting," Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

The administration has not indicated when it would announce its next steps.

Democrats also are lining up behind House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's plan to bring lawmakers back to Capitol Hill after the Nov. 4 election to work on a second economic relief plan. The idea is "give the middle class and the average citizen the same kind of relief that we try to give the financial sector," said Democratic Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

Top Democrats are suggesting a $150 billion measure that would extend jobless benefits, provide more money for food stamps and finance some construction projects, such as rebuilding bridges and roads. It would also include either a tax rebate or tax cut.

Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri, the second-ranking House Republican, said he would help on a plan "that makes sense" but is not laden with huge public works projects or bailouts for states that overspent on social programs.

In another step aimed at easing the financial crisis, the Federal Reserve on Sunday approved the $12.2 billion acquisition of troubled Wachovia Corp. by Wells Fargo & Co. Wachovia is the latest in a string of major banks and financial institutions that have been felled by the financial crisis. The Fed action was expected.

Euro nations to guarantee bank refinancing

PARIS (AP)—Nations in Europe's single-currency zone agreed Sunday to temporarily guarantee bank refinancing and pledged to prevent banks failing as part of a raft of emergency measures designed to get credit flowing again.

It was Europe's most unified response so far to the global financial crisis and addresses a key part of the problem: banks' reluctance to lend to each other. That has helped fuel the crisis that has pulled down some of Wall Street's most storied names and is threatening the core of the U.S. and European economies.

After the Dow Jones industrial average ended its worst week in history, plummeting more than 18 percent last week, world leaders scrambled all weekend for a way to unblock money markets before they open Monday.

At an emergency summit of leaders of the 15 eurozone countries in Paris on Sunday, European governments agreed to guarantee new bank debt until the end of 2009, allowed governments to help banks by buying preferred shares, and vowed to rescue important failing banks through emergency recapitalizion.

But it stopped short of a one-size-fits-all solution: It's up to individual governments to announce how they will implement the measures.

AP

President Bush sits at the G20 ministerial meeting at the International Monetary Fund Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 in Washington. From left, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and Bush.

Investors face more uncertainty as bailout widens

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors agonizing over whether the stock market is bottoming out or about to extend its precipitous decline face more uncertainty this week as they await action on the government's rapidly expanding effort to pull the financial system from the brink.

If last week was any indication, Washington's medicine has yet to take hold. Wall Street suffered through its worst five-day period in history as investor fears about frozen credit markets deepened and they yanked money out of the markets, sending major indexes tumbling from New York to Hong Kong.

But amid the financial carnage, some saw reason for hope: Friday's trading left the Dow Jones industrials 128 points lower, a relatively tame pullback compared to previous sessions. That left people wondering if confidence could trickle back into turbulent world markets.

U.S. stock futures indicated a sharp rebound is in store for the major indexes ahead of the opening bell on Monday. Dow Jones industrials futures rose 235 points, or 2.8 percent, to 8,605. Nasdaq 100 futures rose 38.5, or 3 percent, to 1,321.00; and Standard & Poor's 500 futures added 31.8, or 3.5 percent, to 922.80.

And markets in Asia were generally higher as the week began. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index, the major indicator in the Seoul market, was up 2.7 percent, the All Ordinaries Index in Australia was up 3.43 percent and New Zealand's NZSE 50 index was up 1.16 percent. The Tokyo stock market was closed for a holiday.

Despite that upbeat start to the week abroad, it was too early to tell how U.S. markets will react Monday morning, especially considering the extreme volatility seen in recent weeks. With the U.S. government observing the Columbus Day holiday, closing Treasuries markets, volume could be light.

Investors will be watching this week to see if the Treasury's newly announced plan to buy equity in troubled banks, rather than just their bad assets, is enough to halt the huge losses on Wall Street and revive the lending process that is so vital to the functioning of the U.S. economy.

Asian stock markets mixed after last week's rout

HONG KONG (AP)—Most Asian stock markets recovered Monday after last week's historic sell-off as governments around the world intensified efforts to boost the ailing financial system.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index, which tumbled more than 7 percent Friday, opened over 2 percent but shed its gains to trade about 360.50 points higher, or 2.44 percent, at 15,157.37.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX200 index was up 4 percent in response to a government plan to guarantee bank and other lender deposits for three years. The benchmark plunged over 8 percent on Friday, its biggest single-day fall ever.

South Korea's benchmark gained more than 2 percent and Singapore's key stock measure was up about 1 percent. But China's key Shanghai index traded 2 percent lower, while Taiwan's benchmark lost more than 3 percent.

Japan's market, where the Nikkei 225 tanked nearly 10 percent Friday to close out its worst week in history, was closed for a public holiday.

The region's markets showed signs of life after European nations agreed Sunday to temporarily guarantee bank refinancing and provide fresh capital to distressed banks as part of a host of emergency measures to help the credit markets. In the U.S., Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson called Sunday for coordinated, international steps to deal with the global financial crisis.

Yet investors were still highly cautious, worried about eroding economic conditions, shrinking company earnings and further market turmoil, analysts said. There could be more selling ahead if individual investors, spooked by the steep declines in stock prices, continue to yank money from mutual funds and asset managers.

"You have a situation of global forces selling, which is outweighing optimism about political endeavors at the moment," said Benjamin Collett, head of hedge fund sales trading Daiwa Securities SMBC Co. in Hong Kong. "You have to assume that we're going to go lower, that the risk is to the downside."

Nation

McCain vows to whip Obama's 'you know what'

AMERICA VOTES

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Republican John McCain vowed Sunday to "whip" Democratic rival Barack Obama's "you-know-what" when the two presidential candidates meet Wednesday in their final televised debate.

McCain made that pledge as top advisers said he is weighing new economic proposals to help the nation weather the financial crisis. The Arizona senator refused to answer a reporter's question Sunday about what plans he might be considering.

Addressing several dozen volunteers at his campaign headquarters outside Washington, McCain promised some of his signature "straight talk" about the state of the race. National and many battleground state polls have shown him trailing Obama amid the deepening market crisis.

McCain

"We're a couple points down, OK, nationally, but we're right in this game," McCain said to cheers. "The economy has hurt us a little bit in the last week or two, but in the last few days we've seen it come back up because they want experience, they want knowledge and they want vision. We'll give that to America."

McCain said he and running mate Sarah Palin would continue campaigning hard in the three weeks left before Election Day, in places like Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado. The two planned a joint appearance Monday in Virginia, a Republican stronghold turned battleground this time.

"We're going to spend a lot of time and after I whip his you-know-what in this debate, we're going to be going out 24/7," McCain said.

The two men will debate Wednesday at Hofstra University on Long Island, N.Y. CBS News anchor Bob Schieffer will moderate the 90-minute forum.

Still, McCain promised to run a "respectful" campaign in the weeks to come.

AP

A U.S. forest service firefighter battles towering flames burning along Little Tugunga Road, in the Angeles National Forest, about 20 miles north of downtown Los Angeles on Sunday Oct. 12, 2008.

Fire burns 2,000 acres northeast of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fire officials prepared late Sunday for rapid growth of a wildfire blazing 20 miles north of downtown with the expected arrival of strong, dry wind gusts overnight.

"There's been no open flames for hours. It's just smoldering," Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman Ron Haralson said Sunday night. "We want that to continue but the winds are going to grow and we risk a flare-up."

The fire, which broke out about 2 a.m. Sunday, burned through 2,066 acres of rugged terrain in the Angeles National Forest, razing a house, a garage, several sheds and three mobile homes. More than 1,200 people were evacuated and advised not to return to their homes overnight.

The fire was 20 percent contained Sunday night and no serious injuries were reported.

But Haralson warned the situation could easily deteriorate as powerful Santa Ana winds of up to 60 mph were forecast to arrive from inland areas. Gusts could spread embers and ignite parched brush and chaparral as far as a mile away.

A "fire weather watch" was declared Sunday afternoon for all of Southern California except the deserts through Tuesday.

Some 1,000 people were deployed to fight the fire along with water-dumping helicopters and planes.

The blaze threatened neighborhoods around Kagel and Lopez canyons, forcing the evacuation of about 450 homes. Many displaced residents sought refuge at a shelter set up at nearby San Fernando High School. Horses and farm animals were evacuated to Hansen Dam.

"It burned right down to a couple of neighborhoods," said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Stanton Florea.

Biden decries 'unbecoming personal attacks' by McCain

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP)—Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden on Sunday accused the McCain campaign of trying to distract Americans from their economic woes by launching "unbecoming personal attacks" at Barack Obama.

Appearing at a boisterous rally near his childhood home, Biden said John McCain's campaign is desperate to change the subject from the financial crisis that has wiped out many Americans' college and retirement savings. He said McCain has resorted to making "ugly inferences" about Obama in the waning days of the campaign.

"Every single false charge, every single baseless accusation is a simple attempt to get you to focus on something other than what's affecting your family and your country," said Biden, who was cheered by some 6,000 people packed into a sports arena in the blue-collar city where he lived until he was 10.

"It's good to be home!" said the Delaware senator, who was joined on stage by former President Clinton and Sen. Hillary Clinton—the former Democratic presidential candidate who has her own roots in Scranton, where her father grew up and is buried.

The battered economy may be helping Obama in Pennsylvania, where he has surged ahead in polls over the past few weeks. A daily tracking poll conducted by Muhlenberg College has shown Obama with a double-digit lead over McCain since Oct. 3.

Blighted San Francisco district touts its history

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In the Tenderloin, corner stores sell more alcohol than food, drug-addled pan handlers shake paper cups at passers-by and churches vie for real estate with strip clubs.

Now, the federal government is on the verge of crowning this neighborhood a place of national historic significance. Each of the area's 410 historic buildings—flophouses, parking garages, delis and theaters—now awaits a gold-colored placard, proudly stating its vintage and history.

This month the neighborhood's bid for historic district status will be submitted to the National Park Service, following state approval of the designation in July.

The Tenderloin will join some 80,000 listings already on the National Register of Historic Places, a roster of locales throughout the country worthy of preservation because of their significance in American history, architecture and culture. Mount Rushmore is on the list. So are the boyhood homes of the nation's presidents, along with lesser known buildings, barns and cemeteries.

The Tenderloin was not always a tangle of parking lots, liquor stores and residential hotels. During the Gold Rush, the district was a stretch of sand dunes dotted with scraggly coastal grasses.

AP

A man walks past a Tenderloin entranceway in San Francisco, Friday, Aug. 22, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Residents get OK to return after Pa. chemical leak

PETROLIA, Pa. (AP)—About 2,500 people who fled when a corrosive liquid overflowed from a tank at a chemical plant and evaporated were allowed to return home Sunday after authorities determined that no toxins remained in the air. A material called oleum, similar to sulfuric acid, leaked from a tank at the Indspec Chemical Corp. plant on Saturday and evaporated into a toxic cloud, plant manager Dave Dorko said. All 30 employees of the plant in Petrolia, about 40 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, were evacuated and no injuries were reported, he said. Authorities went door to door to warn the 2,500 people living within 3 miles to evacuate. About 250 went to shelters in nearby Karns City, North Washington and Bruin. Authorities were concerned about the potential for respiratory damage and skin burns, said Freda Tarbell, spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection. She said residents were cleared to return home after officials from the federal Environmental Protection Agency monitored the air and determined that no acid remained. Authorities said three residents were taken to hospitals with apparent respiratory problems, but it was unclear whether the problems were related to the leak. Residents who were in the path of the dense cloud Saturday night were told to remain inside, to close doors, windows and vents, to shut down any system that draws air from the outside, and to put out any fires in fireplaces.

Chief says Chicago police are supported, motivated

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago's police superintendent is denying a news report that officers in his command are working the streets less aggressively out of fear of being second-guessed by him. Jody Weis told reporters Saturday that despite what some people may say, he sees officers who are well supported by their superiors and highly motivated. According to statistics provided by police and an internal document obtained by The Associated Press, serious crime is up but arrests are down in Chicago. Officers are also seizing fewer guns and frisking gang members less often than they did before Weis arrived. Police have denied that any deliberate "slowdown" is taking place. But some members of the department have blamed low morale and fear of investigation by Weis.

Asia

Top general: NATO not losing Afghan war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The top NATO general in Afghanistan on Sunday rejected the idea that NATO is losing the Afghanistan war to an increasingly bloody Taliban insurgency.

But U.S. Gen. David McKiernan also said he needs more military forces to tamp down the militants, and he depicted a chaotic Afghan countryside where insurgents hold more power than the Afghan government seven years after the U.S.-led invasion. He said better governance and economic progress were vital.

"It is true that in many places of this country we don't have an acceptable level of security. We don't have good governance. We don't have socio-economic progress. We don't have people that are able to grow their produce and get it to market. We don't have freedom of movement," he told a news conference in Kabul.

"We don't have progress as evenly or as fast as many of us would like, but we are not losing Afghanistan," he said.

In the country's wild south, meanwhile, Taliban militants launched a surprise attack on the provincial capital of Helmand, sparking a battle that killed about 60 insurgents, an Afghan official said.

Militants attacked the town of Lashkar Gah from three sides early Sunday and were pushed back only after a battle that involved NATO and Afghan troops and airstrikes, said Daud Ahmadi, the spokesman for the provincial governor. Rockets landed in different parts of the city but there were no civilian casualties, he said.

McKiernan said hundreds of insurgents gathered for the attack, and a NATO statement said its aircraft bombed insurgent positions, killing "multiple enemy forces."

"If the insurgents planned a spectacular attack prior to the winter, this was a spectacular failure," said Brig. Gen. Richard Blanchette, the spokesman for the NATO-led force.

In a second battle in Helmand, Afghan and international troops retook the Nad Ali district center—which had been held by militants—during a three-day fight, Ahmadi said. That battle, which also involved airstrikes, ended Saturday. About 40 militants were killed, he said.

AP

U.S. General David McKiernan, commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, speaks during a joint press conference with Afghan deputy defense minister Gen. Mohammad Akram, not seen, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008.

N. Korea announces plan to resume nuclear disabling

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Sunday it will resume disabling its key nuclear complex after the U.S. dropped the country from a terrorism blacklist—a breakthrough expected to help energize stalled talks aimed at ending the country's atomic ambitions.

The spat was the latest of many between Pyongyang and Washington that threatened to scuttle progress before eventually being settled since the international talks aimed at dismantling the communist country's nuclear program began five years ago.

This weekend's developments raised hopes that stalled international nuclear talks could quickly resume and help improve ties between Washington and Pyongyang—Cold War adversaries, still technically at war.

Experts still predict a long, bumpy road ahead before North Korea's nuclear program is ever dismantled.

The next stage "will be more complicated," said Cheong Seong-chang, a North Korea expert at the Sejong Institute, a private security think tank near Seoul.

Cheong said Pyongyang could ask for increasingly difficult concessions like the normalization of diplomatic ties with the U.S. and the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea before it completely dismantled its plutonium-processing facility at Yongbyon.

U.S. officials had insisted they would not take the North off its list of terror-sponsoring countries unless it accepted a through inspection of its nuclear program under an international agreement signed by North Korea, the U.S. and four other countries.

Washington's stance prompted the North to start reassembling the facilities at Yongbyon and bar international monitors from the site.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP president wants Asia-Europe summit in Beijing to tackle economic crisis

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president is calling on Asian leaders meeting in Beijing next week to convene a special session to tackle the impact of the global economic crisis. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Monday she is asking developing and emerging economies to unite and come up with a coordinated approach to cushion the impact of the ongoing credit crunch. Arroyo says leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their partners from China, Japan and South Korea could meet on the sidelines of the Oct. 24-25 Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing. Arroyo is urging the world's industrialized nations to consider the interest of poorer countries in their plan to prevent a global economic meltdown.

Poll: Support for Japan PM falls to 46 percent

TOKYO (AP)—Tepid public support for Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso has fallen further in the weeks since he took office and voters now want help for the country's economy to take priority over domestic politics, according to a poll published Monday. Support for Aso's administration has fallen to 46 percent, down almost 4 percentage points from a survey taken just after he took power and picked his Cabinet three weeks ago, reported the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper by subscribers. It also showed that 70 percent of voters feel a stimulus package for Japan's lagging economy should take priority over parliamentary elections. Earlier polls had shown broad support for quick elections. Aso can call snap elections anytime until next September, and just after he was elected there was heavy speculation that he would do so quickly, with many politicians beginning campaign preparations. But his low initial popularity, coupled with the growing economic crisis, may cause him to hold off.

Sri Lanka fighting kills 30 rebels, 2 soldiers

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Separate battles between government forces and Tamil separatists across Sri Lanka's volatile northern region killed 30 rebels and two soldiers, the military said Sunday. The new fighting came as soldiers closed in on the rebels' administrative capital of Kilinochchi in a campaign aimed at routing the guerrillas and ending the 25-year-old war that has killed more than 70,000 people. The worst fighting took place Saturday around Kilinochchi where two separate clashes killed 26 rebels and two soldiers, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara. The same fighting wounded 16 rebels and seven soldiers. The army has said its forces are about 1 mile from the outskirts of Kilinochchi. Other battles in Welioya and Vavuniya killed four rebels on Saturday, said Nanayakkara. With nearly all communications to the north severed, a rebel spokesman could not be contacted for comment.

Chinese dairy blames subcontractors for tainting

BEIJING (AP)—A dairy ensnared in China's chemical-tainting scandal says it was a victim of unscrupulous behavior by the independent providers from whom it buys raw milk.

Speaking on a television talk show late Sunday, the president of Bright Dairy said his company, one of the largest in the Chinese dairy industry, had been "too nice" toward milk collection stations that bought milk from farmers.

The comments appeared aimed at restoring consumer confidence in the wake of the scandal that has dinged the reputation of some of China's best-known food companies.

"We thought they were operating in good conscience," Guo Benheng said on state television's economics channel.

"I'd say we made an innocent mistake, although an innocent mistake is still a mistake. We are definitely making corrections," Guo said, according to a transcript of his remarks posted on official Web sites Monday.

Appearing on the same show, the vice president of Mengniu Dairy, one of the country's largest, said the scandal had affected the company profoundly.

"This sort of thing just tears your heart apart," Zhao Yuanhua said.

Pakistani tribesmen rise up against militants

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani tribesmen are raising armies to battle al-Qaida and Taliban militants close to the Afghan border—a movement encouraged by the military and hailed as a sign its offensive there is succeeding.

The often ramshackle forces lend force to the campaign in the lawless and mountainous region, but analysts question their effectiveness against a well-armed, well-trained and increasingly brutal insurgency.

The extremists are increasingly targeting the militias, an indication they believe them to be a threat.

On Sunday, two tribesman were killed during an army-backed offensive against insurgents in the Bajur tribal region. Government official Jamil Khan said helicopter gunships shelled militants' bunkers, killing at least 10 people. Fifteen more suspected militants were killed in separate clashes, he said.

On Friday, a suicide bomber killed more than 50 tribesman gathering to form an army. Eight pro-government tribesmen have been beheaded in recent days.

By encouraging the private armies, or "lashkars," the government is exploiting local resentment against foreign and Pakistani extremists in the area, considered a likely hiding place for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders.

World

Car bombings in Mosul and Baghdad kill 13

AP

An Iraqi old man walk behind the wreckage of a car after a car bomb explosion in the predominantly Shiite Bayaa district, southwestern Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Suicide car bombers struck twice Sunday in the northern city of Mosul, killing at least six people and wounding dozens of others, U.S. and Iraqi officials said. A car bomb killed seven other people in Baghdad.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed by snipers in separate attacks Sunday in the capital's Yarmouk district, police said.

Also Sunday, the government announced new security measures to protect Christians in Mosul after a spate of attacks against them by Sunni religious extremists.

The series of attacks shows the ongoing security challenges facing Iraq as the U.S. shifts responsibility to this country's own soldiers and police following the sharp decline in violence since last year.

The first attack in Mosul occurred when a suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. patrol, the U.S. military said. There were no American casualties, but five Iraqis were killed, including three young boys, the U.S. said. The attack also killed the bomber.

Another suicide car bomber targeted Iraqi police in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. Twenty-five people were wounded, the U.S. said.

In Baghdad, a parked car bomb exploded in a commercial street in the Bayaa district, killing seven people and wounding nine others, police said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to release the information.

The southwestern Baghdad neighborhood was the scene of bitter Sunni-Shiite fighting until last year when the U.S. troop "surge," the Sunni revolt against al-Qaida and a cease-fire by anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr brought down violence to its lowest level in four years.

"Several car bombings have occurred on this street but no measures were taken to prevent these events," one Bayaa resident, who gave only his nickname Abu Ibrahim, told Associated Press Television News. "Where is the government? Where are the security officials to prevent such attacks?"

Attacks have been continuing in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, despite months of U.S. and Iraqi security operations against al-Qaida and other Sunni extremist groups.

The governor of the province that includes Mosul, Duraid Mohammed Kashmoula, said Saturday that about 3,000 Christians have fled the city over the past week alone to escape threats and attacks by Sunni extremists.

Official links Mexican drug gangs, Colombia rebels

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's powerful drug cartels are buying drugs directly from Colombia's main rebel group, a senior Colombian defense official said Tuesday at a hemispheric meeting on crime.

The finance chief of the FARC rebel unit along the Ecuador-Colombia border is the main contact with the Mexican gangs that purchase cocaine from the rebels, said Sergio Jaramillo, Colombia's deputy defense minister.

"We are particularly worried about the strengthening connections between Mexican cartels and the FARC," Jaramillo said. "The Mexican cartels are buying directly from the FARC."

He identified the finance chief as Oliver Solarte, a member of the 48th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which operates on the border.

Jaramillo refused to give more details, saying he didn't want to compromise intelligence reports. He spoke at the inauguration of a two-day security meeting of the Organization of American States in Mexico City.

Ecuador broke diplomatic relations with Colombia on March 3 over a cross-border raid by Colombia on a FARC camp that killed a top rebel leader and 24 others. The camp was located in an area where the 48th Front operates.

Jaramillo said the FARC controls most of Colombia's cocaine trade, though right-wing paramilitary bands and other mafias are also involved.

The FARC in recent years has often operated on the Ecuadorean side of a highly porous jungle border. It smuggles arms and other supplies into Colombia and smuggles out much of the cocaine that funds the rebels' more than four-decade-old insurgency.

US game designer blasts into space with DNA cargo

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP)—An American computer game designer reached space Sunday, fulfilling a long-deferred childhood dream that began with the flight of his astronaut father.

The Soyuz TMA-13 spacecraft carrying Richard Garriott and two crewmates—and the digitized DNA sequences of some of the world's most famous minds—hurtled into a clear blue sky from the Baikonur facility on the Kazakh steppe.

Garriott, a 47-year-old multimillionaire from Austin, Texas, is the sixth paying space traveler and the first American to follow a parent into orbit.

The Soyuz is due to dock Tuesday with the international space station, where British-born Garriott will spend about 10 days conducting experiments—including some whose sponsors helped fund his trip—and photographing Earth to measure changes since his father snapped pictures from the U.S. station Skylab in 1973.

AP

U.S. space tourist Richard Garriott, crew member of the 18th mission to the International Space Station (ISS), gestures prior to the launch of Soyuz-FG rocket at the Russian leased Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008.

As the bright orange glow of the rocket disappeared, Garriott's 77-year old father watched with binoculars.

"I'm elated, elated," Owen Garriott said when a loudspeaker announcement confirmed the spacecraft had reached orbit safely about 10 minutes after lift-off.

The younger Garriott said before Sunday's launch that he managed to recoup a significant slice of his trip's price—a reported $30 million—through some of his experiments and that he hoped his trip would provide a viable model for financing private space travel.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russian leader Medvedev watches missile tests

MOSCOW (AP)—President Dmitry Medvedev watched a missile soar from Russia's rain-soaked northern forests toward a target thousands of miles away on Sunday, capping a weekend of launches reminding audiences at home and abroad about the country's nuclear might. Prominent coverage of the tests on state-controlled television also seemed designed to boost the bookish Medvedev's credentials as commander-in-chief in the eyes of the Russian populace. On Sunday, Medvedev saw what officials said was the successful test-firing of a 21-year-old Topol intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile hit its target thousands of miles to the east on the Kamchatka Peninsula, Medvedev told servicemen who conducted the launch. "Respected comrades ... you have fulfilled your task and I congratulate you," Medvedev, dressed in a dark bomber jacket, told servicemen in bulky blue uniforms in a clearing near the Plesetsk launch facility.

Norbert weakens to tropical depression over Mexico

PUERTO SAN CARLOS, Mexico (AP)—Norbert dissipated into a tropical depression over the northern mountains of mainland Mexico on Sunday, after ripping off roofs, flooding streets, and forcing thousands to seek shelter in Baja California. The storm's remnants dumped moderate rain in areas across West Texas on Sunday afternoon, but there were no immediate problems, according to officials with the National Weather Service in Texas. Presidio County Attorney Rod Ponton said Texas officials were waiting for rain reports from Mexico to know if they should expect floodwaters later this week in Presidio, where an earthen levee is struggling to hold back the swollen Rio Grande. Civil Protection officials in the Mexican border state of Chihuahua warned of possible freezing rain because of Norbert's remnants and a cold front. Norbert hit mainland Mexico's Sonora coast early Sunday as a Category 1 hurricane with winds near 85 mph (140 kph) after crossing the Baja California peninsula on Saturday, said the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Conservatives ahead in Lithuania election

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—A conservative opposition party was ahead in Lithuania's parliamentary election, but strong support for populist groups set the stage for tricky coalition talks, partial results showed Monday. The vote, which came as the Baltic country's economy slumps after years of spectacular growth, appeared to spell the end for Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas' centrist coalition government. With three-fourth of the precincts counted, the conservative Homeland Union was in first place with nearly 18 percent of the vote—a signal that Lithuanians wanted change, party leader Andrius Kubilius said. "We are ready to take responsibility and expect the president's offer to start forming a new Cabinet," Kubilius told cheering colleagues at the party's headquarters. Thorny talks between party leaders, including ousted ex-president Rolandas Paksas and Russian-born millionaire Viktor Uspaskich, lie ahead. A runoff vote for single-mandate constituencies will be held in two weeks. No clear coalition is expected to emerge until after those elections are decided.

Overdrive

2009 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TDI

Meditations on the soul of a sedan

By WARREN BROWN
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THE WASHINGTON POST
The 2009 Volkswagen Jetta TDI, a compact front-wheel drive family sedan, gets excellent marks in ride, acceleration and handling. A stately compact car that knows how to smile, it exudes classic warmth.

WASHINGTON—An undergraduate theology professor once advised me to avoid expressing love for inanimate objects. His argument was that non-living things, including those with motors and engines, lack souls. Things without souls are incapable of loving or being loved, he said.

I finished his course with a B-, mostly because I consumed inordinate amounts of time in papers and classroom discussions trying to prove him wrong.

That professor is long gone from the halls of Xavier University of Louisiana, as am I. But with your forbearance, dear reader, I wish to continue the argument.

Consider the turbo-diesel-powered, 2009 Volkswagen Jetta TDI sedan. Yes, it's an inanimate object, normally incapable of movement or direction without human input, worthless without fuel or battery. Yet, I submit to you that it is quite capable of engendering human affection akin to love.

I further submit that, because of the Jetta TDI's remarkable performance and reliability, it is reasonable for the owner or driver of the car to assume that the affection felt for it is reciprocal—that the car, in fact, returns love to its human master.

That, of course, raises the question of "soul." The argument here is that, although generically inanimate, the compact, front-wheel-drive Jetta TDI sedan is gifted with spirit.

With its broad, chrome-lipped grille, the car seems to smile. It conveys warmth. Note the workmanship. The Jetta TDI's laser-welded seams are tight, flawless. The car's body is rigid, substantial. There is nothing heavy or cumbersome about it. Its interior layout is simple and uncluttered. Even the sound system's tonal adjustment knobs are sensible, easily grasped and turned knobs!

You fall in love with the Jetta TDI because you feel the love of the people who designed, engineered and built it. That feeling is enhanced in driving.

Too many cars with lots of torque—twisting power exerted on the drive wheels—and great acceleration are gas guzzlers. But that is not the case here.

My wife, Mary Anne, and I averaged 36 miles per gallon in the city and 42 miles per gallon on the highway. That's as good, if not better, than many subcompact economy cars—without the boredom of economy car motoring.

And the 2009 Jetta TDI is a 50-state diesel, meaning that it is now approved for sale and use in California and in four other states—New York, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts—that adhere to California's super-strict, tailpipe emissions-control rules.

The downside is that the ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel required for the 2009 Jetta TDI is not cheap. Ultra-low sulfur diesel has a sulfur content at 15 parts per million versus nearly 500 parts per million for dirtier, traditional diesel fuel. In recent months, according to figures compiled by the American Petroleum Institute, the price of diesel fuels has been averaging 25 cents to 70 cents a gallon more than that of regular unleaded gasoline. The higher diesel prices usually apply to the ultra-low sulfur grade, which absolutely must be used in the vehicles for which that fuel is designated.

Still, none of that undermines my love for the Jetta TDI. The car is as fuel-efficient as many subcompacts and gas-electric hybrids. It looks better, feels, and is just hands-down more fun to drive than most of them. It is reasonably priced. What's not to love about any of that?

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
The tested Jetta TDI came with an optional six-speed transmission that could be used as a manual or automatic. For this one, I would've preferred the standard, traditional five-speed manual gearbox to optimize driving pleasure and possibly mileage. Also, there are too many trim levels, 32, in the Jetta line.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
The Jetta TDI gets excellent marks in all three categories.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Classic warmth — a stately compact car that knows how to smile.

BODY STYLE/ LAYOUT
The Jetta is a compact front-engine, front-wheel drive family sedan. It is also available as a wagon (the SportWagen).

ENGINE/ TRANSMISSION
The tested Jetta TDI came with a 2-liter, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder, turbocharged diesel engine that develops 140 horsepower at 4,000 revolutions per minute and 236 foot-pounds of torque at 1,750 revolutions per minute. The engine was mated to an optional six-speed transmission that could be operated automatically or manually. A traditional five-speed manual gearbox is standard.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five. The trunk has 16 cubic feet of luggage space. Ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel capacity is 14.5 gallons. Warning: Using dirtier, traditional diesel grades in this car could ruin its exhaust system.

MILEAGE
We wanted to keep this one—an affordable, fun-to-drive car that got 36 miles per gallon in the city and 42 mpg on the highway.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock protection, side and head air bags, electronic stability and traction control, rigid body construction. This one gets a five-star federal safety rating for side-crash protection, four stars for frontal crash protection.

PRICE
The base price on the 2009 VW Jetta TDI with optional six-speed manual-automatic transmission is $21,990. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $20,743. Price as tested is $22,839, including $199 for optional iPod adapter and a $650 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is $21,569. The Jetta TDI is eligible for a federal tax rebate similar to that applied to gas-electric hybrid cars. Prices are sourced from Volkswagen, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
A diesel lover's delight that, for the moment, is pretty much in a class by itself.

Ithaca, NY, wants to be America's 1st podcar city

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP)—The thought of a driverless, computer-guided car transporting people where they want to go on demand is a futuristic notion to some.

To Jacob Roberts, podcars—or PRTs, for personal rapid transit—represent an important component in the here-and-now of transportation.

ON THE NET
Institute for Sustainable Transportation: http://www.podcar.org
Unimodal Transport Solutions: http://www.unimodal.com
Santa Cruz Podcars: http://www.podcars.us

"It's time we design cities for the human, not for the automobile," said Roberts, president of Connect Ithaca, a group of planning and building professionals, activists and students committed to making this upstate New York college town the first podcar community in the United States.

"In the podcar ... it creates the perfect blend between the privacy and autonomy of the automobile with the public transportation aspect and, of course, it uses clean energy," Roberts said.

With the oil crisis reaching a zenith and federal lawmakers ready to begin fashioning a new national transportation bill for 2010, Roberts and his colleagues think the future is now for podcars—electric, automated, lightweight vehicles that ride on their own network separate from other traffic.

Unlike mass transit, podcars carry two to 10 passengers, giving travelers the freedom and privacy of their own car while reducing the use of fossil fuels, reducing traffic congestion and freeing up space now monopolized by parking.

At stations located every block or every half-mile, depending on the need, a rider enters a destination on a computerized pad, and a car would take the person nonstop to the location. Stations would have slanted pull-in bays so that some cars could stop for passengers, while others could continue unimpeded on the main course.

"It works almost like an elevator, but horizontally," said Roberts, adding podcar travel would be safer than automobile travel.

AP
In this March 20, 2006 file photo, South Korean engineers and scientists visit West Virginia University's Personal Rapid Transit maintenance building in Morgantown, W.Va. The group wants to learn more about how the system works. They are researching PRT-like technology for use in a variety of ways in South Korea.

CRUISIN'

GMC vs Chevy

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, why does General Motors have a GMC truck, when everyone knows it is a Chevy anyway.—H.H., Mississippi
A: H.H., GMC trucks are sold at non-Chevy General Motors franchise dealers. If a dealership sells other than Chevy, like a Pontiac-Buick-Cadillac franchise, GM allows the dealer the right to sell GMC pickups, so it doesn't lose a pickup truck or SUV sale. If a Pontiac-Buick-Chevy dealership exists, it will sell Chevy only. You won't find a Chevy-GMC dealership to my knowledge. And yes, GMC and Chevy trucks are identical, sans the badges.

■ ■ ■

Q: Greg, I enjoy driving my 1973 Chrysler Newport. The sticker on my door well calls for a minimum of an H7815 tire, and I want to meet or exceed the minimum because this car is big and heavy, while also trying to maintain speedometer accuracy. Is there a conversion chart available to help me?—Cliff W., New Port Richey, Fla.
A: There sure is, Cliff. First, I'll tell you that the H7815 equates to P225/75R15, and there are several sites on the Internet that provide conversion tables for you to check other sizes. One such site is http://www.tirerack.com/tires/tiretech/45_conversion-chart.html/.

I'm glad you're aware that larger diameter tires could affect the accuracy of your Newport's speedometer. You'll be going a bit faster than the speedometer says because your final rear gear ratio would be a little higher, but lower numerically, from, say, a 3:23 rear to a 3:18 with the oversized tires.

■ ■ ■

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

That summer we all went to Washington

By NEELY TUCKER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The Cobb/Rudy family, ages 11 to 49, is down from Syracuse on summer vacation. Four kids, tweeners to teeners, Mom and Dad. They're looking to hit the city's museums.

See THAT on Page 19

This Tuesday, July 3, 2007 picture shows the skyline of Washington, D.C., including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol.

AP

WASHINGTON MUSEUMS UPDATE

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The museum reopens Nov. 21 after an $85 million, two-year renovation. The Star-Spangled Banner moved into its new gallery last week so the historic fabric can acclimate to its new environment. In the meantime, the staff is contributing stories and insights on a new blog (blog.americanhistory.si.edu).

FORD'S THEATRE

Ford's Theatre is broadening the focus of the intimate museum about Abraham Lincoln that is housed in its basement. The new narrative begins with his arrival in Washington, follows his administration and the Civil War, and ends with details of that fateful day in April 1865. Other Lincoln artifacts from the National Park Service will be added; returning are John Wilkes Booth's derringer, knife and diary. The redone theater will reopen in February for a heavy schedule of events surrounding the commemoration of Lincoln's birth 200 years ago. The 5,000-square-foot museum will reopen later in the spring.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The museum is scheduled to be completed on the Mall in 2015. In the meantime, its officials are holding meetings around the country to assess what real folks want in this museum, and evaluating artifacts—yes to a Madame C.J. Walker pin that the businesswoman gave to her employees—and collecting personal histories (nmaahc.si.edu). As a preview of what's in store, the staff, along with curators from the National Museum of American History, are presenting a photography show next year of the Scurlock studio, the noted Washington firm.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM

Scheduled to open in 2011 at Judiciary Square, this museum got a green light on its mostly underground site and its building plans last month from the National Capital Planning Commission. In the past few weeks, artifacts were obtained from Eliot Ness' time as director of public safety in Cleveland. In the meantime, there's a virtual tour of the museum (www.nleomf.com/TheMuseum).

MADAME TUSSAUDS

The Washington location keeps adding those statues of wax, most recently the still-dreamy Denzel Washington. But, since it's a privately held concern, officials declined to release visitor numbers. And they have adjusted their price, down from an original $25 for one adult to $18. To celebrate its first anniversary, admission will be $1 Wednesday to Saturday.

THE NEWSEUM

Opened in April, the big attraction on Pennsylvania Avenue isn't releasing its attendance figures, but it is keeping pace with the presidential race with a just-installed film on political campaigns, "Every Four Years," in its big-screen theater.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The National Museum of Crime and Punishment is on track to reach 700,000 visitors by its anniversary next April. Shown here is an exhibit on Bonnie and Clyde, including the car used in the movie.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Hard to miss with that McGruff crime-fighting dog greeting people outside, the museum is on track to reach 700,000 visitors by its anniversary next April, officials say. The private museum has started a monthly book club—crime and suspense novels—and is also featuring CSI lessons and a guest speaker forum.

THAT

From Page 18

Mom and Dad—that's Mike Cobb and Colleen Rudy—are on the steps of the National Air and Space Museum, looking at a map of the Mall. Smithsonian, Metro, the Capitol ... which way does this thing ... where's the hotel again? OK! Here we are!

Lookitall these museums! And national monuments and icons! They've been here three days, and they're not even making a dent!

"We haven't stopped moving!" Colleen says.

Mom and Dad are piggybacking the vacation around a health care conference here (they both work on the business side of medical offices). In tow are their kids from earlier relationships: There's Matt Cobb, 15, Makenzie Rudy, 14, Michaela Rudy, 13, and Sarah Cobb, 11. The two 17-year-olds, Michelle Cobb and Margaret Rudy, were far too cool for this, of course, and stayed home.

But they've been energetic, this crew. They drove down Sunday, went directly to an after-dark tour of the city and didn't call it quits until an hour before midnight. In just a couple of days, they've checked off the Vietnam Memorial, a tour of the Capitol, the top of the Washington Monument, the top of the Old Post Office, walking through downtown.

Now they've got a touch of museum fever, which overtakes a lot of the 15 million tourists who visit the Mall each year and belatedly realize the volume of the city's museums (more than a dozen in the Smithsonian alone) is overwhelming. It suddenly seems there are 80 gazillion works of art, historical significance or natural wonders to see before closing, it's your last day in town, the kids are fidgety. And. There. Is. Just. Too. Much. To. See. The National Gallery of Art? The Corcoran? Holocaust? Newseum? They won't be able to even darken the doors!

It's not like they haven't tried. Day 1, they hit No. 1 on the kids' list, the International Spy Museum. They walked the four or so blocks from the Grand Hyatt to Eight and F streets NW and immediately discovered ... there was a whopper of an admission charge! They paid $118 for the family. Talk about scalping a good mood.

The kids played with some of the interactive stuff, but there were no guides. There didn't seem to be an organized process. It all went flat.

"These guys were bored halfway through," says Mike, nodding toward the kids.

"It was kind of fun," says Colleen, trying to make the best of it, "but not $118 worth of fun."

The kids:

"We thought it would be more hands-on."

"The beginning—you picked who you were, and played a game."

Yeah? And then?

"And then it just got dull."

Now, after a day of sightseeing, they're already down to their last day. There are only hours to go!

Mom and Dad reconnoiter. The main criteria: something the kids want to do, but at the same time, something the parents think they'll learn from.

The Smithsonian Castle? Nah. The National Museum of the American Indian, next door, doesn't make the cut. "Bbooorriiingg!!" the kids say. Art museums? "The kids would scream," Mike says.

Air and Space turns out to be the winner. It seems fun, energetic. The kids like it. They'll add on the Museum of Natural History later in the day, as the map shows it to be across the Mall and near the Metro, which will take them back to the hotel.

The family files in, past security, heads down to the McDonald's for a bite, then splits up to cover maximum ground. Mike and Colleen walk through the lunar exploration exhibits—they can actually remember when Apollo was the news of the day—and the kids scamper upstairs to look at other parts of Apollo. Mike pulls them all back together to go through the exhibit about the universe, telescopes old and new, and then they take a family stroll through the Skylab Orbital Workshop, checking out how the astronauts live while in space.

"You sleep in that thing?"

"Look, here's the shower."

"Ohmigod. In that?"

Pictures, snap, snap.

Matt: "Pretty cool."

Just ahead in the hallway is the Imax Theater in the museum's midsection. This is good! Kids! Movies! There's "Cosmic Collisions," "3D Sun," "To Fly!," "Black Holes" and "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag."

The last starts in half an hour and looks good. They split up again, reconvene by cellphone, then file into the auditorium. Sarah and Michaela sit in the middle of the very first row. All Mike and Colleen can see from their vantage point, halfway up, is the two girls' feet tapping out a dance routine against the barrier rail in front of them.

"They're having a great time," Colleen says. "This morning at the Capitol, Sarah broke into song."

The lights go down and the jets go up, up, up, cameras in the cockpit, splaying a view of Earth fading and then swooping past. It's about fighter pilot training school. Lights come up, and the family meets back up in the hallway. The flick gets six thumbs up. The kids give it an 8 out of 10!

They make their way through the planes, walk through the front of a Douglas DC-3, then into the Sea-Air Operations exhibit. Toylike little planes hang from the ceiling. There's a video game you can play about landing on an aircraft carrier. Matt is too high, flies over the carrier. So does Sara. But Makenzie holds the joystick, navigates, and her plane is going down, down, swinging back and forth, the deck of the carrier skewing, and then *slow down!!* She wiggles the plane back to the left and nails a night landing!

Downstairs, hey, it's the flight simulators. They cost $7 or $8, and the kids all want to go. Mike sighs and shells out $32. With the Imax flick, they've spent about $70 in the museum. Even the free museums are expensive. The kids run into the exhibit space and hop into the simulators, things with names like "Spacewalk" and "Wings."

Mike and Colleen stand out front and take a break.

"You do such different things when you have the kids with you," Colleen muses. "Like if you didn't have the kids, and you didn't want to go see this or that, you might just say, `Let's go get a drink.' But with the kids, you want them to learn something while they're in Washington. You want them to understand the importance of things. It's really something every family should do."

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Cobb/Rudy family, ages 11 to 49, is in Washington from Syracuse, N.Y., on vacation. From left: Mom Colleen Rudy; Sarah Cobb, 11; Michaela Rudy, 13; Makenzie Rudy, 14; Matt Cobb, 15; and dad Mike Cobb.

Where you'll pay and why

By JACQUELINE TRESCOTT

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—More than 60 percent of America's museums charge admission. Washington mostly spoils you with its open-door policy—but fee-based attractions are increasing here.

The privately owned International Spy Museum receives zero from the federal government and charges $18 for adults age 12-64, and $25 for a special combined ticket for another exhibition and game. Revenues from the restaurant, retail and memberships help pay for utilities, staff and the education programs.

The Smithsonian Institution gets 70 percent of its budget from the federal government, hence the free admission. But special features, such as the simulators at the National Air and Space Museum and Imax movies, do cost. So does the almost-new Butterfly Pavilion inside the National Museum of Natural History. Visitors can read about the science of butterflies in one area, but must pay $6 for access to the chamber where the butterflies are fluttering (Tuesdays are free). The organizers have carefully explained the fee: It's a specially designed chamber, the butterflies' short life span means they're regularly replaced, some imported, and they eat specially grown plants and insects.

In other words: Butterflies are not free.

Museum interactivity

WASHINGTON—Museums have long grappled with the teen attention span and are increasingly adopting interactive and other electronic media to help. Washington is somewhat behind on creating these types of exhibits, but Mount Vernon, the relocated Newseum and the new Ocean Hall at the National Museum of Natural History can help satisfy that interactive impulse.

Last month, the Smithsonian American Art Museum began sponsoring an alternate reality game (if ARG means nothing to you, consult your Web-savvy teen) taking place in real and virtual spaces for six weeks. The final day of "live" play is at SAAM on Oct. 25.

Called "Ghosts of a Chance" (www.ghostsofachance.com), it's the first alternate reality game produced for a museum. SAAM hopes it will attract teens who aren't usually turned on by museum visiting: "It asks players to experience the museum and its collections in an entirely new way, and challenges the idea of a museum as only a physical space," explains Laura Baptiste, public affairs officer at the museum. ***(The Washington Post)***

Planning your museum visits

WASHINGTON—If you only have 72 hours in Washington, like many families, planning is essential.

Download the interactive guide from DestinationDC.com and browse the "sample itineraries." For a purely arts and culture focus, check out the calendar at CultureCapital.com. To add the restaurants and watering holes to the poetry reading, consult washingtonpost.com/cityguide. There's also a three-day suggested itinerary at washingtonpost.com/visitorsguide.

Once you've narrowed your options, almost every institution has a specific plan for you: For example, at the National Gallery of Art's Web site (www.nga.gov), you can download the PDF file "Less Than an Hour? West Building Sculpture Highlights."

Washington ranks high on everyone's list of walkable cities (read: pack comfortable shoes!). CulturalTourismDC.org is loaded with information on walking self-tours and guided tours all over town. DCbyFoot.com conducts a free walking tour every day at 2 and 6 p.m. from February to November.

And the "trip planner" on MetroOpensDoors.com will help you use the bus and subway to reach your destination. ***(The Washington Post)***

Visiting with teens

One good thing about the abundance of museums in Washington is that virtually any topic your teen is obsessed with can be explored here. So before planning a trip, take stock of your teen's interests and match those to exhibits to minimize the frequency of sighing and eye-rolling during the visit.

Ford Bell, the president of the American Association of Museums (and father of a 15-year-old), adds that teens like the authentic: "He wants to know if he is standing on the actual battlefield. He asked me 5,000 questions in the gem hall at Natural History." Washington is a gold mine for that kind of curiosity.

If your teens get "museumed out," start a quiz about movies set in Washington: Almost every exterior of iconic D.C. has made a cameo, from the Library of Congress ("National Treasure: Book of Secrets") to the steps on Prospect Street NW in Georgetown ("The Exorcist"). If you have a Saturday morning free, take the official movies tour (see Screentours.com).

If younger teens are prone to restlessness, they can sign up for Bike the Sites, where the longest tour of the monuments is three hours, and the prices are about $40. Those 16 or older can rent Segways through Zerve.com/CapSegway for a two-hour tour at $65 or $70.

Want to slip off for a glass of wine? Sign up your teens for the Washington Photo Safari's guided field tours. They'll be escorted around to the sights while getting tips on composition, lighting and more. ***(The Washington Post)***

'Chihuahua' fetches $17.5M to win 2nd weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An adorable talking dog remained just the sort of escapist movie hero audiences wanted after a week of awful economic news.

Disney's family comedy "Beverly Hills Chihuahua," with Drew Barrymore providing the voice of the pooch, was the No. 1 flick for the second-straight weekend with $17.5 million, raising its 10-day total to $52.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Beverly Hills Chihuahua" is the only light comedy in a market heavy on drama. Chuck Viane, Disney's head of distribution, said movie-goers may be turning to the perky pooch to help forget the market free-fall on Wall Street.

"This is only word-of-mouth coming back to us from theaters. I don't have any statistical proof. But they're telling us we're getting more unaccompanied-by-children adults coming on their own. They're looking for a little entertainment," Viane said. "The axiom we've always lived by is funny is money. People come out for comedy. They love to sit back and let someone give them a couple of hours of escapism."

AP

In this photo provided by Walt Disney, A chihuahua is served dinner in a scene from the movie, "Beverly Hills Chihuahua."

The weekend's No. 2 flick - the fright film "Quarantine," which debuted with $14.2 million - filled the escapism needs for the horror crowd. The Sony Screen Gems release centers on a contagion that turns an apartment building's tenants into flesh-hungry monsters.

"It's probably the perfect kind of movie for today's climate," said Rory Bruer, Sony head of distribution. "Let's just get away from the news, from all that's going on, and go someplace else, and this is something that'll take you someplace else."

The marquee trio of Leonardo DiCaprio, Russell Crowe and director Ridley Scott had to settle for third-place with their terrorism thriller "Body of Lies," which had a $13.1 million debut. The Warner Bros. film centers on a CIA operative hunting the terrorist responsible for bombings around the world.

"Body of Lies" may have dealt with too sober a topic after all the disastrous financial news, said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros.

"I think we ran into really difficult timing. The nation suffered such an economic loss this week that the mood of our audience was such that they were probably looking for a little more escapism than to see a movie on terrorism," Fellman said.

The weekend's other new wide releases, Universal's football drama "The Express" and 20th Century Fox's family fantasy "City of Ember," opened weakly.

"The Express" - starring Rob Brown and Dennis Quaid in the story of Ernie Davis, the first black player to win the Heisman Trophy - came in at No. 6 with $4.7 million.

"City of Ember," with Tim Robbins and Bill Murray in a post-apocalyptic adventure set in an underground realm, took in $3.2 million to finish at No. 10.

Keira Knightley's historical saga "The Duchess" climbed into the top 10 as it expanded nationwide after three weekends in limited release. The Paramount Vantage drama, which stars Knightley as an 18th century aristocrat stuck in a loveless marriage, pulled in $3.32 million to place No. 9.

Two British movies started well in limited release. Guy Ritchie's London crime romp "RocknRolla" opened with $141,000 in seven theaters. The Warner Bros. release features Gerard Butler, Thandie Newton and Tom Wilkinson heading an ensemble cast.

Mike Leigh's "Happy-Go-Lucky," a Miramax release starring Sally Hawkins as a woman whose eternal optimism is continually challenged, premiered with $80,000 in four theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Beverly Hills Chihuahua,"** $17.5 million.
2. **"Quarantine,"** $14.2 million.
3. **"Body of Lies,"** $13.1 million.
4. **"Eagle Eye,"** $11 million.
5. **"Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist,"** $6.5 million.
6. **"The Express,"** $4.7 million.
7. **"Nights in Rodanthe,"** $4.6 million.
8. **"Appaloosa,"** $3.34 million.
9. **"The Duchess,"** $3.32 million.
10. **"City of Ember,"** $3.2 million.

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The Express

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The true story of Ernie Davis, two-time All-American running back for Syracuse University who led his team to the national championship in 1960. In 1961, he became the first black man to win the Heisman Trophy. Later that year, he was the first pick in the NFL draft. But Davis never got the chance to play professional football, he was diagnosed with leukemia during the summer of 1962 and died nearly a year later.

Body of Lies

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:20	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

Synopsis
Roger Ferris is the best man U.S. Intelligence has on the ground, in places where human life is worth no more than the information it can get you. In operations that take him around the globe, Ferris' next breath often depends on the voice at the other end of a secure phone line—CIA veteran Ed Hoffman. Strategizing from a laptop in the suburbs, Hoffman is on the trail of an emerging terrorist leader who has orchestrated a campaign of bombings while eluding the most sophisticated intelligence network in the world.

Quarantine

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:15	

Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
For a reality TV show about people who work while the rest of the world is asleep, reporter Angela Vidal and her cameraman, Scott, are assigned to cover a night shift with a pair of firemen at a Los Angeles fire station. After an uneventful evening, a 911 distress call in the middle of the night takes them to a small apartment building downtown. Police officers are already on the scene in response to bloodcurdling screams coming from an apartment on the third floor. Having stumbled onto a breaking story, Angela and Scott are determined to get it all on tape.

★ ★ ★

Blindness

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo
Drama, Thriller • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

House Bunny

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
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T.I. has dual No. 1s but claims underdog status

By **MESFIN FEKADU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Although T.I. owns both the No. 1 album and single in the country, the platinum-selling rapper says he still feels like the underdog.

"Nobody has ever given me a win and nobody has ever said, 'T.I., you know he's going to do this thing.' They always (say), 'He's not going to do this much, he's not going to do that good, I don't believe he'll do that well.' So its always been an uphill battle for me no matter how big I get I'm always the underdog," he said in an interview.

But the 28-year-old may not be able to claim that underdog title for long. His latest CD, "Paper Trail," sold more than 560,000 copies in its first week to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 album charts, and his newest single, "Live Your Life" featuring Rihanna, supplanted the album's first single, "Whatever You Like," at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart.

The 28-year-old rapper made the comments before taking the stage at Diesel's 30th birthday celebration in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Saturday night. The circus-themed event for the apparel company featured mash-up performances; other artists performing included N.E.R.D., Hot Chip, Franz Ferdinand, Joel and Benji Madden of Good Charlotte, Chaka Khan and M.I.A., who performed her breakthrough Top 10 hit, "Paper Planes."

AP

In this Aug. 12, 2008 file photo, rapper T.I. makes an appearance at MTV Studio's in Times Square for MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York.

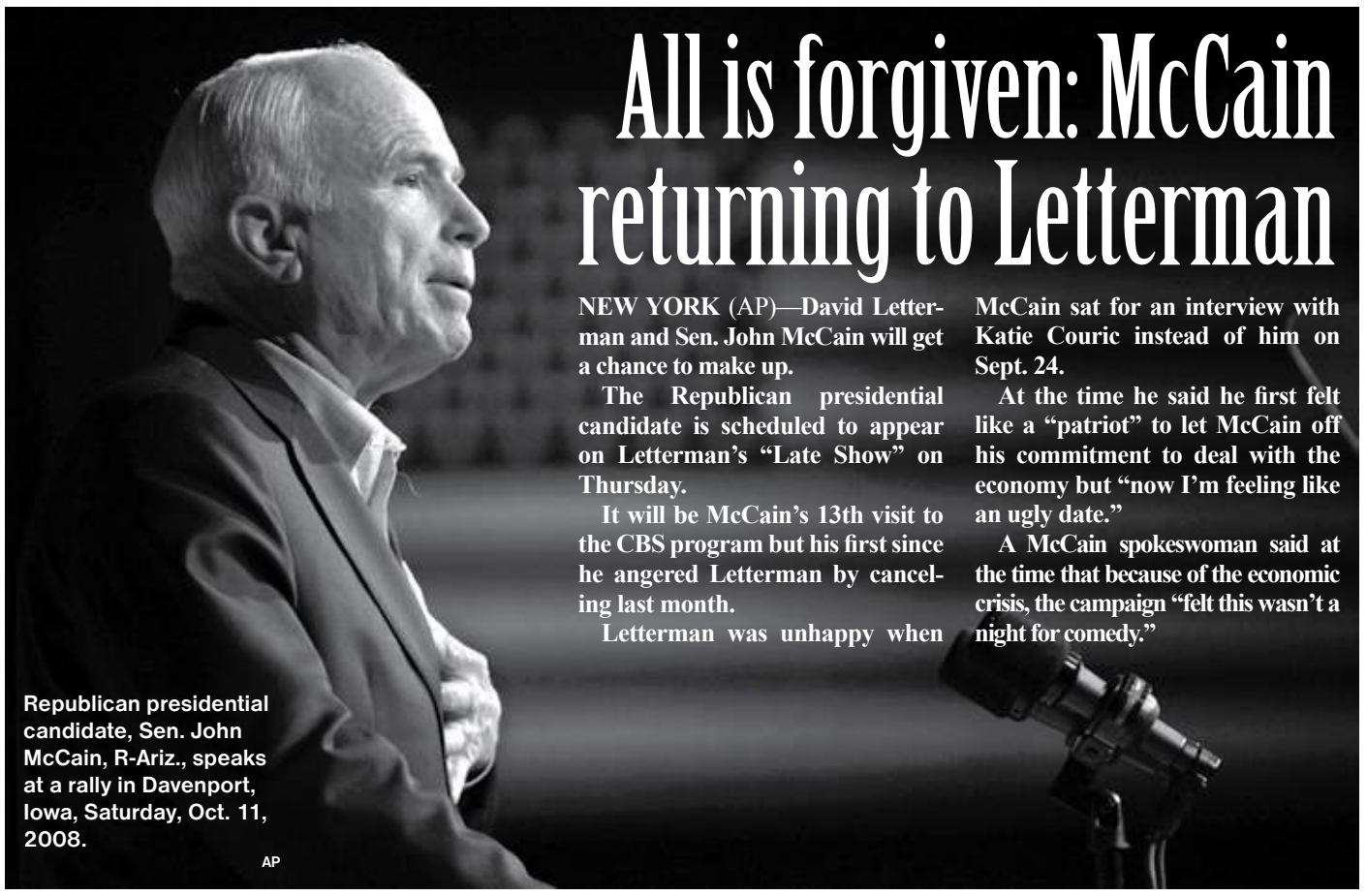
Other celebrities in attendance included Lindsay Lohan, "Gossip Girl" co-stars Chace Crawford and Taylor Momsen, actresses Emma Roberts and Zoe Kravitz, and former Destiny's Child member Michelle Williams.

T.I. also performed a song with the pregnant M.I.A., and called the lyricist "the hottest rap chick in the game right now, period." T.I. recently sampled "Paper Planes" for a collaboration with Jay-Z, Kanye West and Lil Wayne. The song, "Swagga Like Us," appears on "Paper Trail."

T.I. said the collaboration between the top rappers is a reflection of the respect they have for one another.

"It wasn't like I said let me get Jay, Wayne and Kanye on the same song," he said. "The song started off with me and Kanye and it was just me and Kanye, and mutual associates of all four of us suggested, 'Hey man, if Jay and Wayne were on here too, it'll be one of the biggest songs in hip-hop history.' So I said, 'You know what, that's a great idea. It's ambitious, but it's a great idea.' So we reached out and they agreed and it's a pleasure to have them involved."

The rapper, whose real name is Clifford Harris, was sentenced to one year in prison on federal weapons charges after he was arrested last October before the BET Hip-Hop Awards in Atlanta for allegedly trying to buy automatic weapons. He is scheduled to start his prison sentence in March 2009 after completing 1,000 hours of community service.



All is forgiven: McCain returning to Letterman

NEW YORK (AP)—**David Letterman and Sen. John McCain will get a chance to make up.**

The Republican presidential candidate is scheduled to appear on Letterman's "Late Show" on Thursday.

It will be McCain's 13th visit to the CBS program but his first since he angered Letterman by canceling last month.

Letterman was unhappy when McCain sat for an interview with Katie Couric instead of him on Sept. 24.

At the time he said he first felt like a "patriot" to let McCain off his commitment to deal with the economy but "now I'm feeling like an ugly date."

A McCain spokeswoman said at the time that because of the economic crisis, the campaign "felt this wasn't a night for comedy."

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks at a rally in Davenport, Iowa, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008.

AP

Photographer William Claxton dies at 80

LOS ANGELES (AP)—William Claxton, a celebrated photographer who worked with such entertainers as Bob Dylan and Frank Sinatra and who helped establish the organization that runs the Grammy Awards, has died. He was 80.

Claxton died Saturday at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles of complications stemming from congestive heart failure, his son Christopher said.

He was best known for his soulful portraits of jazz artists such as Chet Baker, and he went on to photograph Dylan and other musicians such as Joni Mitchell and Tom Jones. His images graced the covers of numerous albums.

Claxton, a founding member of The Recording Academy, started his photography career in 1952 while a student at University of California, Los Angeles.

He also worked with Sinatra, Steve McQueen and Rebecca De Mornay, and his photographs regularly appeared in such magazines as Life, Paris Match and Vogue.

In the 1960s, Claxton collaborated with his wife, fashion model Peggy Moffitt, to create a collection of iconic images featuring Rudi Gernreich's fashion designs.

This photo released by Christopher Claxton and taken by William Claxton shows Marlene Dietrich in Las Vegas in 1955.

AP

A film he directed from that era, "Basic Black," is considered by many to be the first "fashion video" and is now part of the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Claxton also wrote 13 books and held dozens of exhibitions of his work around the world.

In 2003, he won the Lucie award for music photography at the International Photography Awards.

"He was a great photographer and a wonderful man who touched the lives of his friends through his generosity, charm and kindness," said his publisher Benedikt Taschen, founder and owner of Taschen Publishing, in a statement. "Bill was very close to my heart and a pillar of our publishing house."

Schieffer set to moderate last presidential debate

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The debate season that has chewed up its moderators comes to a close Wednesday when John McCain and Barack Obama meet for the third time, with CBS News' Bob Schieffer directing the discussion.

The veteran "Face the Nation" host won't telegraph what he will ask. But he said he will be seeking more details about their potential presidencies than have been evident so far.

"By now we've all heard their talking points," he said. "We've heard the general outlines of what they are talking about. The time has come to be a little more specific."

Jim Lehrer, Gwen Ifill and Tom Brokaw had great plans going into their debates, too. Each had their own frustrations.

Lehrer tried hard to get McCain and Obama to speak directly to the other when it was evident they didn't want to.

During the vice presidential debate, Republican Sarah Palin took pride in not answering Ifill's questions. "She blew me off," a bemused Ifill said later.

The advantages of a town hall style meeting were muted in Brokaw's presidential debate. The longtime NBC newsman was spoofed by his own network's "Saturday Night Live" for overseeing a dry debate: "From this list of penetrating, insightful and provocative questions, I have chosen the eight least interesting," said Brokaw impersonator Chris Parnell.

The "SNL" skit's running gag was about debate rules with time so short that Brokaw cut off the contenders before they could answer a question.

"Why can't we have a debate that allows the candidates to go deeper into the issues and actually engage each other?" wondered Richard Greene, a public speaking coach and author of "Words That Shook the World: 100 Years of Unforgettable Speeches and Events." "At this point the moderator stands in the way and it's the fault of the campaigns for setting up these rules."

The two candidates will sit at the same table for the third debate, so close that will be able to reach out and touch each other. Schieffer hopes this will encourage more interaction.

AP

In this Aug. 31, 2008 file photo, Bob Schieffer, anchor of the CBS "Face the Nation" program, is shown at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Mom's problem with manners may be misplaced priorities

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: May I point out something to "Mannerly Mom in Cumberland" (July 23)? She's the woman who, after thanking someone, becomes offended when she hears, "No problem," rather than, "You're welcome."

In many languages, the literal response to "Thank you" translates to, "It was nothing." So a reply of "No problem" is not entirely inappropriate. In fact, it makes more sense to me than, "You're welcome," which I don't understand at all. I am welcome to what?

If "Mannerly Mom" is really worried about teaching her children proper manners, shouldn't she be more concerned that they DO respond in acknowledgement rather than insist that they use the proper words? To me, that would be a much more valuable lesson.

DENNIS IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

DEAR DENNIS: According to Webster's New World Dictionary, "You're welcome" means, "You're under no obligation for the favor given." But allow me to share with you that the topic of whether it's appropriate to respond to a "Thank you" with "No problem" is one that energized more than a few of my older readers to say they find it offensive. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I never realized how often "No problem" was used until last year, when a speaker at our customer service seminar drew our attention to the issue. Since then, our company has set national standards against the use of "No problem," which has become a standard response to "Thank you."

I would like to suggest an alternative: "My pleasure," which conveys a completely different feeling. Saying this to customers makes them feel as though you were happy to be of service to them.

JUST A NOTE FROM KANSAS

DEAR ABBY: I agree with you that language is evolving, but one reason is that so many cultures are present—and becoming more prevalent—in the U.S. In Spanish, the literal translation of "de nada" is "It's nothing." Surprisingly, in England, "You're welcome" is not commonly used. I'm married to a Brit and found it strange that my flawlessly mannered mother-in-law would just smile and nod. My husband has taken to saying, "No worries," which is quite Australian.

APRIL IN MAPLE GROVE, MINN.

DEAR ABBY: Here in the South, the common response to a thank you (especially with younger service-industry people) is "Uh-huh." Oh, how I long to hear "No problem." If I take the time to thank people for service, please make some effort to acknowledge my thanks. "Uh-huh" sounds absentminded, as though the speaker has already mentally moved on.

PREFERS "NO PROBLEM"

DEAR ABBY: It has been my experience that young people use the phrase indiscriminately for every statement or question put to them. "No problem"—like some four-letter words—betrays a lack of vocabulary or unwillingness (born of laziness) to use more precise language. In addition, this response implies that the other party might have thought there was a possible problem when that implication was not intended.

DANIEL IN KISSIMME, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: Your readers might be interested in the way "Thank you" is responded to in other countries. In England, there is no response. The service has been rendered, the server thanked, the transaction is complete. In French- or Spanish-speaking countries, the proper response is, "It's nothing." In Arabic-speaking countries it's, "No thanks for doing my duty," and in China it's, "No thanks are necessary." My favorite: When I said "Thank you" in my best Korean to a young Korean woman, she replied, "No problem!"

INDIANA LINGUIST

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SHEESH, IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING. WHY DO KIDS ALWAYS FEEL SICK AT TWO IN THE MORNING?
CALVIN PROBABLY JUST ATE TOO MUCH DESSERT. IF HE'S GOING TO GET ME UP AT THIS HOUR, HE'D BETTER REALLY BE SICK.
-DADDRFF.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT!
HONEY, PIPE DOWN. I'M TRYING TO SLEEP.
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10/14 WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THERE ARE MY FRAT BUDDIES IN COLLEGE
YEAR BOOK
WE HAD SOME GREAT TIMES
GOOD OL' "PHI AMA GEEKA"
IS THAT A KEG OF HERBAL TEA?
JIM DAVIS 10-14
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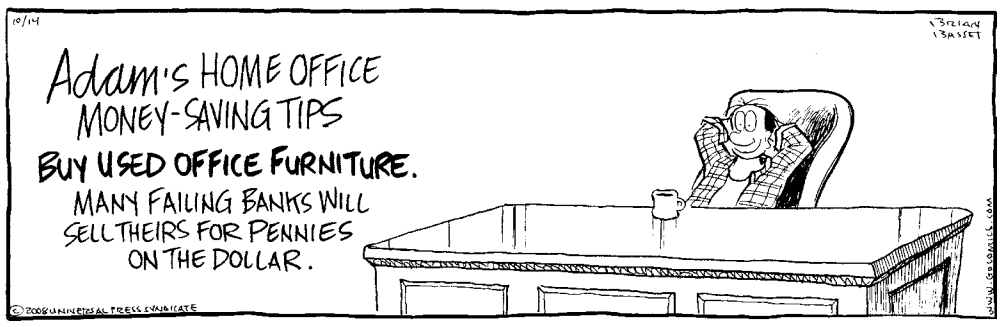
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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BRIAN BASSET
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS College Movie Reminds Me of My own University years.
Those care-free days spent with all the frat guys, just hanging around campus.
You were in a fraternity?
No. They just used to hang me around campus.
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10-14

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Help a felon
5 Witnessed
8 Korean War movie
12 Went on horseback
13 Hasten
14 Chills and fever
15 Periodical
17 "An Inconvenient Truth" teller?
18 Pig's home
19 Frequently, in verse
20 Christmas-tree topper, maybe
21 Witticism
22 TV lawyer Stone
23 Coffee additive
26 At a loss
30 Bjorn of tennis
31 Shack
32 Tittle
33 Sports arena
35 Eightsome
36 Rd.
37 Commotion
38 Jerry Herman heroine
41 Expert
42 Taste the wine
45 Foil cousin
46 "Golconda" painter René
48 Set down
49 Past
50 Crazy
51 Otherwise
52 Corral
53 She played Lili Von Shtupp

DOWN

1 Weaponry
2 Ocean vessel
3 Tense
4 Chamomile, for one
5 Work hours
6 "— We Got Fun?"
7 Teensy
8 Venetian noble
9 Enthusiastic
10 Foolproof
11 Shoe part
16 Speed
20 TV alien
21 A Biblical Mary
22 Chow down
23 Couric's employer
24 Deterioration
25 Epoch
26 Vagrant
27 Parcel of land
28 Schedule abbr.
29 Pop
31 Coloration
34 Wall climber
35 Smell
37 Inert gas
38 Strike from the text
39 October birthstone
40 Oahu souvenirs
41 Senate staffer
42 Old portico
43 Reason to scratch
44 Laborer
46 Chart
47 Sort

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	A	D		B	B	S		H	A	I	R	
E	T	A	S		A	L	T		E	D	D	Y
R	O	T	E		T	O	O		R	O	S	E
S	P	A	W	N		C	O	L	A			
			I	A	M		P	I	L	L	A	R
W	R	I	N	G	E	R		E	D	U	C	E
H	O	N	G		T	U	B		S	A	N	S
Y	U	C	C	A		B	A	N	Q	U	E	T
S	T	A	I	R	S		Y	O	U			
			R	E	E	F		W	A	L	T	Z
S	Y	N	C		A	L	I		R	O	U	E
P	O	O	L		M	E	N		E	T	N	A
A	N	N	E		Y	A	K		S	A	L	

Yesterday's answer 10-14

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stacy Keibler, 29; Usher, 30; Natalie Maines, 34; Harry Anderson, 56

Happy Birthday: Don't give in to keep the peace or so you can feel secure in your position with colleagues, friends or family. You may not like to argue moot points but sometimes it is required to reduce stress and clear the air. Anyone trying to take too much from you or who is overindulgent, must be avoided or you will not have clear passage forward. Your numbers are 7, 16, 25, 27, 30, 34, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Calm down or you won't finish what you need to get done. Be motivated and don't let unimportant things eat away at you. The sweetest revenge is your own success. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Prepare to put up a fight if someone opposes your ideas. Chances are, whoever tries to stand in your way is jealous or insecure about your successes. You have the potential to make a difference by making reforms. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Follow closely what's going on financially and legally—a life-altering event is apparent. Implement changes that will help broaden your outlook and solidify your plans. Learn the ins and outs of any deal you pursue. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It won't be easy to decide between two people who need your help or which organization to support or even how to discipline a child who has taken a wrong turn. Listen, evaluate and stay calm. You will choose the right words and select what's best for everyone involved. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Reconnect with your past ideas, people and goals. Travel or attending a reunion will bring about memories and the realization that you may not have followed through with your dreams. This should inspire you to rethink your future plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make your home space more conducive to what you need to accomplish. It will help you be more productive. Strive to be the best and you won't be disappointed with the recognition and results you get. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may be forced to make a move for your own emotional well-being. Don't let love or a friendship get you down. You can count on the people who know you best to intervene and help you if things get too difficult. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A challenge will appear to be built on false pretenses. Avoid falling for a setup when you can do things on your own. You don't have to match up to anyone, you just have to surpass your own standards. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A change of heart may lead to alterations to your living arrangements as well as to your location. Emotional matters can be dealt with and will allow you to dismiss tension and stress. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You don't have to get involved in something to prove your loyalty. Just be there as a sounding board if something goes wrong. Family feuds will escalate, causing separation. Don't take sides. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Set goals to achieve and rules to follow. There is money to be made and deals that will help you get your life in order. Speak with someone who has experience and savvy about what you want to do. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's time to make yourself heard, to take the position you desire, to strive for greatness and to offer what you have as a gesture of good will. Speak from the heart and you will be heard and will move forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken and independent. You are a thinker, sensitive toward others but always fair. You value home, family and traditions.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9					6	5	
4		1		2				9
	7	8			9			3
			7			1		
	3						6	
		5			3			
8			9			5	7	
6				1		4		2
	2	7					1	

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	6	3	1	2	8	4	7
8	3	2	5	4	7	9	6	1
7	1	4	9	6	8	2	3	5
2	8	1	4	9	5	6	7	3
5	7	3	6	2	1	4	9	8
6	4	9	8	7	3	5	1	2
3	6	7	2	8	4	1	5	9
4	2	5	1	3	9	7	8	6
1	9	8	7	5	6	3	2	4

Difficulty Level ★ 10/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CANADA VOTES TODAY **Solution: 9 letters**

C	S	R	N	A	I	R	A	T	R	E	B	I	L	D
S	C	E	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	H	M	I	E
E	A	B	V	C	Y	C	L	E	O	A	S	O	B	L
L	B	E	C	I	V	I	L	T	R	H	N	T	E	I
I	I	I	D	N	T	T	Y	P	A	P	G	T	R	Z
M	N	R	E	T	O	A	E	A	I	E	I	O	A	A
S	E	K	B	S	L	R	V	M	S	T	S	R	L	B
T	T	H	A	E	I	C	T	R	E	S	S	E	N	E
S	S	N	T	W	V	O	A	H	E	S	H	I	F	T
S	T	A	E	N	I	M	C	N	P	S	P	T	L	H
T	I	E	E	M	A	E	O	E	N	S	N	R	A	M
A	M	L	P	K	O	D	L	S	B	O	I	O	K	A
B	I	C	C	H	G	W	B	U	N	E	N	F	C	Y
L	L	A	U	R	E	E	N	O	E	R	U	T	U	F
E	J	E	M	O	C	N	I	H	I	L	L	Q	L	S

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Anthem, Bloc, Cabinet, Cannon, Civil, Clean, Conservatives, Cycle, Debate, Dion, East, Elizabeth May, Fortier, Future, Harper, Hill, House, Income, Jack, Krieber, Laureen, Layton, Liberal, Libertarian, Limits, List, Luck, Motto, National, New Democratic, North, Olivia, Quebecois, Raise, Shift, Signs, Smiles, Spin, Stable, Stephane, Stephen, West, Women

Yesterday's Answer: Conclusion

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bikini

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SAHNEE DUPITAS RAÑOLA Petitioners, vs. **FRANCISCA GAAG RAÑOLA,** Respondent.	)	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0426** **SUMMONS**

TO: FRANCISCA GAAG RAÑOLA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer your wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to SAHNEE DUPITAS RAÑOLA whose address is P.O. Box 503772 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2008.

/s/ **Clerk of Court**

Jan Christine S. Cabrera
P.O. Box 503720
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 236-8262
(Veronica Cabrera)

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: **R.K.S.C,** *A Minor Child* By: MAXIMO PRUDENCIO SANCHEZ CABRERA, Pettitioner.	)	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0614 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 27, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2008.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Dodgers top Phillies, fight way back into NLCS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tired of getting brushed back in the NL championship series, Manny Ramirez and the Los Angeles Dodgers came out ready to fight their way back against Philadelphia.

Blake DeWitt's bases-loaded triple off Jamie Moyer capped a five-run first inning, and the feisty Dodgers beat the Phillies 7-2 in a testy game Sunday night to trim Philadelphia's lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

The benches and bullpens emptied in the third moments after Los Angeles starter Hiroki Kuroda threw a pitch over Shane Victorino's head, with an angry Ramirez barking at the Phillies during the dustup.

But there were no punches or ejections, and the Dodgers played with poise all night.

"We needed to get the momentum back," catcher Russell Martin said. "I think we did that."

Kuroda pitched effectively into the seventh for Los Angeles, which will try to even the series Monday night. Game 1 loser Derek Lowe, working on three days' rest, will face Philadelphia's Joe Blanton.

Kuroda buzzed Victorino in an apparent attempt to retaliate for Brett Myers throwing behind Ramirez in Game 2. Plate umpire Mike Everitt immediately warned both teams, and Victorino shouted at Kuroda while pointing at his own head and upper body as if to say: "It's OK to throw at my body, but not my head."

Victorino grounded out to first baseman Nomar Garciaparra and then exchanged words with Kuroda near the bag. Both dugouts cleared and the bullpens followed.

"Someone was bound to get hit. The situation called for it. Just don't throw at my head," Victorino explained after the game.

Dodgers third base coach Larry Bowa and Phillies first base coach Davey Lopes appeared to be two of the angriest participants in the near-scuffle, yelling at each other before the teams cleared the field. Ramirez also came in from left field and had to be restrained by teammates, manager Joe Torre and an umpire.

"It wasn't at his head, it was over his head," Martin said. "We're just trying to make a statement. It's part of the game. Manny looked a little more steamed than I was."

Myers threw behind Ramirez in the first inning of Game 2 on Friday, and Martin was brushed back as well. The soft-tossing Moyer hit Martin with a pitch in the first inning Sunday night, and reliever Clay Condrey knocked down the Dodgers' catcher in the second.

Martin was hit by another pitch in the seventh, a breaking ball from Chad Durbin, drawing boos from the crowd and prompting Ramirez to climb to the top step of the dugout. But Martin took first base without any trouble.

Crew chief Mike Reilly said the warning was issued to protect the players.

"That's the toughest thing for an umpire to read—intentional," Reilly said. "But we absolutely had a situation, we had a batter hit and then the retaliation, pitch up high. And we figured at that point that we should put a warning in to stop any further retaliation from the other side coming back out again."

The Phillies and Dodgers don't have a recent history of animosity, unlike Boston and Tampa Bay, the ALCS participants. The Red Sox and Rays have played two peaceful games in their series after a nasty brawl in June.

"I think it's over. I'll squash it," Victorino said.

Torre thought the warning from umpires was proper.

"With the passion that goes on in this postseason, I mean, you work all year to get here, and I think the umpires just basically tried to do the safe thing," he said. "And I can't fault them in that.

"Nobody wants to get hit in the head," he added. "That's certainly frightening. I've been hit a couple of times. I'm not sure that that was the intention, even though the pitch was there. Again, you try to throw a ball inside and sometimes it gets away. But certainly there was no intent on hurting somebody in that area. That I can tell you for sure."

The Phillies and Dodgers have played 11 times this year, including eight in the regular season, with the home team winning every game. And the Dodgers' 23-9 record at home after the All-Star break was the best in the majors.

Kuroda, a 33-year-old rookie making just the second postseason start of a career that includes 11 years in the Japanese Central League, gave up only five hits and two runs with one walk and three strikeouts before being relieved by Cory Wade with two on and nobody out in the seventh. Wade retired the next three batters to end the inning.

Kuroda worked 6 1-3 shutout innings in the Dodgers' 3-1 victory over the Cubs in the division series-clincher Oct. 4. He was 1-0 with a 1.38 ERA in two starts against the Phillies during the regular season, allowing four hits and two runs in 13 innings.

The 45-year-old Moyer, who became the oldest pitcher to start a league championship series game, lasted only 1 1-3 innings for his shortest outing since July 4, 1998. He gave up six hits and six runs.

"He had a tough time tonight," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said. "They came out swinging on him. They were not taking very many pitches. And they hit some balls hard and also seemed like everything they hit went through for a hit. We got behind early right there quick about five runs. It wasn't his night. And he's been consistent all year long for us. He's one of the reasons why we're playing here."

The Dodgers had a 1-0 lead by the time Moyer had thrown five pitches on singles by Rafael Furcal, Andre Ethier and Ramirez. Casey Blake singled in another run before DeWitt lined a 2-2 pitch into the right-field corner to clear the bases and send the towel-waving, blue-clad fans at Dodger Stadium into a frenzy.

The Phillies got a run in the second on Ryan Howard's leadoff double and a two-out RBI single by Pedro Feliz, but Furcal hit Moyer's first pitch over the left-center wall to make it 6-1.

Moyer's night was done after he retired Ethier on a fly to center. Six of the 11 batters Moyer faced hit safely, and he also hit a batter with a pitch.

Nomar Garciaparra, making his first start of the postseason, hit a two-out RBI single off J.A. Happ in the fourth to extend the Dodgers' lead to 7-1.

The Phillies didn't have a base runner after Feliz's second-inning hit until Chase Utley doubled to start the seventh. Ryan Howard and Pat Burrell followed with singles to make it 7-2 and chase Kuroda.

Utley drew a two-out walk in the first for his fifth free pass in six plate appearances dating to Game 2, and was thrown out trying to steal with Howard batting. It was the first attempted stolen base by either team in the series.

Ramirez, who entered with 18 hits in 53 at-bats, 10 homers and 20 RBIs against Moyer in his career, raised his postseason RBI total to 72 - eight shy of Bernie Williams' record. Ramirez also walked twice and flied to right.

The announced attendance of 56,800 —800 more than listed capacity—was the largest in Dodger Stadium history. Tiger Woods was a guest in owner Frank McCourt's box, wearing a Dodgers cap and NL West division champions T-shirt.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Hiroki Kuroda, left, and Casey Blake, right, celebrate with Russell Martin after Martin and Blake scored on a three RBI triple by Blake DeWitt during the first inning in Game 3 of the National League baseball championship series against the Philadelphia Phillies Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Red Sox's Jon Lester, all better, unleashed on Rays

BOSTON (AP)—This is Jon Lester unleashed: unhittable in May, a stopper in October, the emerging ace of the Boston Red Sox.

The 24-year-old lefty will start Game 3 of the AL championship series against Tampa Bay on Monday, facing Matt Garza at Fenway Park under the championship banner Lester helped raise with a World Series-clinching victory just months after he was cured of cancer.

"We're one of four teams left right now. You're playing for the ultimate prize. You're playing for another ring, a chance to be world champions again," Lester said Sunday before Boston's off-day workout. "I think a lot of the young guys that were here last year get spoiled. We're doing it again. It's almost like we expect it, and this is all we know."

All Lester has known lately is success—especially at Fenway.

He went 11-1 at home this season, including a May 19 no-hitter against Kansas City. He has not allowed an earned run in his last 22 2-3 postseason innings, including the Game 4 victory in the World Series as the Red Sox swept Colorado to win their second title in four seasons.

"He's pitching unbelievable right now, and I think he's become our ace," Kevin Youkilis said. "Coming here at home he always pitches pretty well, so we've just got to have him pitch a good game and jump on Garza as soon as we can."

The Red Sox took the opener of the best-of-seven series in Florida, but the Rays tied it Saturday night when B.J. Upton lofted a bases-loaded sacrifice fly to shallow right field in the 11th inning to give Tampa Bay a 9-8 victory. Josh Beckett, dominant in Boston's '07 title run, allowed eight runs in 4 1-3 innings, taxing the bullpen and leaving the Red Sox in need of a Game 3 rescue from Lester.

"He's the guy you want to give the ball to," Boston reliever Manny Delcarmen said. "With what he's done, he's the guy everybody feels comfortable in after a tough loss that he's going to go out and throw well."

A touted prospect who was routinely requested in trade talks, Lester was developing into a star when he was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma, a rare cancer of the lymph nodes, as a rookie in 2006. He was pronounced cancer-free after chemotherapy in December and cleared to return to the mound in the spring of '07.

Although there's little precedent for a pitcher recovering from non-Hodgkins lymphoma, the Red Sox did what research they could on how to get him back to full strength. Their conclusion: take it slow.

"I made a call to his folks in spring training, and I told them, 'We're really going to (upset) your son.' And they laughed," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "They said, 'You know, we understand why.'

"I think it was the correct thing to do. He was pitching fine, but it wasn't what it is now. I don't think you ever expect that, but when you're competing you want it to be there—right now."

The Red Sox started Lester in the minors last season before calling him up to Boston in late August. He went 4-0 with a 4.72 ERA in 11 starts over the last two months of the regular season, and when the playoffs began they sent him out to the bullpen as an emergency long-relief guy.

He did not appear in the first round against the Angels, and he came out of the bullpen in a pair of losses to Cleveland in the AL championship series. In the World Series, all he did was start the fourth game and pitch 5 2-3 shutout innings against the Rockies.

Winless Rams upset Redskins, 19-17

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP)—Josh Brown kicked a 49-yard field goal on the last play of the game Sunday, giving the Rams a 19-17 upset of the Washington Redskins to end an eight-game losing streak over two seasons. Jim Haslett was a winner in his St. Louis head coaching debut.

It took a fluke play for the two-touchdown underdog to pull off the stunner. The Rams got one at the perfect time in the first half.

The Redskins (4-2) overcame a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit and appeared set to win their fifth straight game when Clinton Portis' 2-yard run with 3:47 left gave Washington a 17-16 lead. But Marc Bulger hit Donnie Avery down the right sideline for a 43-yard gain on third-and-13 to move into field goal territory.

AP

St. Louis Rams kicker Josh Brown (3) kicks a 49-yard game-winning field goal with holder Donnie Jones (5) as Washington Redskins cornerback Carlos Rogers (22) defends during the closing seconds of the fourth quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct 12, 2008 in Landover, Md.

Cardinals 30, Cowboys 24, OT

At Glendale, Arizona, Sean Morey blocked Mat McBriar's punt and Monty Beisel scooped up the ball and scored from 3 yards. Morey rushed untouched off the left side of the Dallas line to block the kick. Beisel, a backup linebacker, picked up the ball and bowled over the goal line.

McBriar had to be carted off the field in the din of a crowd that included the usual large portion of Dallas fans.

The stunning play by two of Arizona's most unheralded players brought a conclusion to a game loaded with confusion, controversy and clutch performances.

Chargers 30, Patriots 10

At San Diego, Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes and San Diego's defense stuffed quarterback Matt Cassel on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line.

It was a measure of payback against a team that had beaten the Chargers three straight times, including in the playoffs the last two seasons.

Rivers drew raves for his toughness by playing the AFC championship game with a shredded ligament in his right knee, but he couldn't get the Chargers into the end zone that day and they lost 21-12 to the Patriots at Foxborough.

Eagles 40, 49ers 26

At San Francisco, Donovan McNabb passed for 280 yards and two touchdowns without his top two receivers and his best running back, and the Eagles' aggressive defenders forced three turnovers during a 23-point fourth quarter.

Donald Strickland returned a blocked field goal 41 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half for the 49ers (2-4), who went ahead 26-17 in the third quarter. They couldn't sustain that momentum in their third straight loss against a Philadelphia defense that repeatedly made stunning plays in the final minutes.

Packers 27, Seahawks 17

At Seattle, Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay's ailing quarterback, ran for a touchdown early, then threw two scoring passes in the second half to perhaps save the Packers' season.

Seattle paid for having to start No. 3 quarterback Charlie Frye. It looked inept on offense while dropping to 1-4—the equal of the St. Louis Rams at the bottom of the NFC West the Seahawks have ruled the last four seasons. Seattle was last 1-4 in 2002, its most recent losing season.

Rodgers, again starting despite a sprained throwing shoulder, was 21-for-30 with 208 yards as Green Bay (3-3) won for the 10th time in 13 road games.

Jaguars 24, Broncos 17

At Denver, David Garrard completed 25 of 34 passes for 276 yards, one TD and no interceptions and running back Maurice Jones-Drew rumbled for 125 yards and two TDs on 22 carries.

The Jaguars (3-3) also won at Invesco Field last year, thanks to a franchise-record 18-play, 80-yard drive that chewed up nearly 12 minutes. This time, they wasted no time in sending the Broncos (4-2) to their first home loss since last Oct. 29 against Green Bay.

Texans 29, Dolphins 28

At Houston, Matt Schaub threw interceptions on Houston's first two possessions, but ran for a 3-yard touchdown with 3 seconds left. The Dolphins (2-3) had knocked down consecutive passes in the end zone before Schaub ran for the score. The 2-point conversion failed, but Houston had enough points.

That drive was kept alive when Andre Johnson caught a 23-yard pass on fourth-and-10.

Falcons 22, Bears 20

At Atlanta, Jason Elam made the most of his second chance, kicking a 48-yard field goal on the final play.

Elam appeared to be the goat after hooking a 33-yard attempt wide left with less than 3 minutes left. The Bears took advantage of Elam's first miss in 31 attempts, quickly driving downfield and going ahead for the first time when Kyle Orton hit Rashied Davis on a 17-yard touchdown with 11 seconds remaining. Robbie Gould booted through the extra point that gave Chicago a 20-19 lead.

But the surprising Falcons, coming off an upset of the Packers in Green Bay, weren't done. With many fans heading for the exits, Gould pooched the ensuing kickoff, and Harry Douglas managed a 10-yard return to the Atlanta 44.

Vikings 12, Lions 10

At Minneapolis, a questionable pass interference penalty on Leigh Bodden put Minnesota's woeful offense in position for a 26-yard field goal by Ryan Longwell with 9 seconds to go.

Detroit (0-5) outplayed the Vikings for the entire game in a spirited effort, but the Vikings (3-3) got a boost from a call by field judge Mike Weir. Trailing 10-9 in the final 3 minutes, Gus Frerotte threw deep down the sideline for Aundrae Allison, and the ball fell incomplete. But Weir whistled cornerback Bodden for pass interference despite what appeared to be minimal contact.

Buccaneers 27, Panthers 3

At Tampa, Florida, Jeff Garcia longed for another chance to show he's the right quarterback for the Buccaneers. The three-time Pro Bowl selection got it Sunday and delivered exactly what the Bucs were looking.

Garcia, starting for the first time since the season opener because Brian Griese is injured, threw for 173 yards and a touchdown. Warrick Dunn had his most productive day running the ball since rejoining the Bucs with 115 yards on 22 carries.

Colts 31, Ravens 3

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes to Marvin Harrison, a third to Reggie Wayne, and the Colts sputtering offense finally got itself righted, against the Ravens' top-ranked defense.

The Colts (3-2) played with the precision, efficiency and passion coach Tony Dungy had been seeking, and they delivered their best overall performance in months.

Harrison caught two TD passes in a game for the first time since Dec. 24, 2006. Indy did that even after losing Pro Bowl running back Joseph Addai (hamstring) in the first quarter and third-string running back Mike Hart (knee) in the second quarter.

Saints 34, Raiders 3

At New Orleans, Drew Brees put on a clinic JaMarcus Russell would be wise to study. Connecting on 87 percent of his throws, Brees passed for 320 yards and three touchdowns.

Oakland's Tom Cable spent his NFL head coaching debut watching in frustration as Russell completed only 13 of 35 passes for 159 yards, while throwing an interception and fumbling.

Reggie Bush scored two TDs on a 3-yard run and 15-yard reception. His 21-yard reception in the first quarter gave him 200 catches through the first 34 games of his young career, tying him with Arizona receiver Anquan Boldin as the quickest NFL players to reach 200 receptions.

Jets 26, Bengals 14

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Thomas Jones ran for two touchdowns, including a 1-yarder late in the game, and caught a pass from Brett Favre for a score.

The Jets (3-2) improved to 3-0 in games immediately following a bye under coach Eric Mangini, but this one was far from easy. With New York holding a 20-14 lead late in the game, the Jets needed a 10-play, 41-yard drive by Favre that ate up the clock and sealed the victory over the Bengals (0-6).

Facing third-and-4 from the Bengals 7, Favre hit Chris Baker for 6 yards. Jones followed with a 1-yard rumble into the end zone with 2:22 left.

Favre, coming off a six-touchdown performance in a 56-35 victory over Arizona, wasn't nearly as explosive. He finished 25-for-33 for 189 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions.

Zach Johnson wins Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Zach Johnson found his putting touch in time for a season-salvaging victory in the Texas Open.

"I've been working on my putting over the last six weeks with my teachers and it really paid off this week," Johnson said. "I had a tough year, but the putts started to fall into today and that why I'm at the top of the leaderboard."

The 2007 Masters champion who entered the week with only one top-10 finish this year, Johnson followed his third-round 62 with a 64 on Sunday for a two-stroke victory over Charlie Wi (61), Mark Wilson (63) and Tim Wilkinson (64).

The win in the Fall Series event, capped by a 5-foot birdie putt on 18, was his first on the PGA Tour outside Georgia. In addition to the Masters, he won the 2004 BellSouth Classic and 2007 AT&T Classic.

"This week I was just concentrating on the process not the outcome," Johnson said. "I had six weeks off this fall (after not qualifying for the FedEx Cup playoffs) and I just rededicated myself to getting back to what I used to do."

Wi parred the final two holes.

"I didn't look at the scoreboard until I got to the 15th hole. I knew Zach was close, but I was playing very good," Wi said. "I was very happy to make those birdies on 15 and 16. I wish I could have made one more."

Third-round leader Rory Sabbatini shot a 72 to finish seven strokes back at 12 under.

Johnson never trailed on the back nine, but both Wi and Wilkinson keep the pressure on with birdies putts of their own. On the par-4 18th hole, Johnson hit his drive more than 300 yards and put his 9-iron approach to 5 feet.

"I'm not proud of many shots, but I was proud of that one," Johnson said.

The ensuing walk up the 18th fairway was a filled with smiles and waves for the crowd, while his wife and young son waited behind the green.

"Hopefully this is the first of many to come," Johnson said.

AP

Zach Johnson holds his trophy after winning the Texas Open golf tournament, in San Antonio, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008.

G-Stars extend winning streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The G-Stars continued to flash their brilliance in the 2008 Rotary Club Youth Basketball League thumping the Kontenders, 57-38, Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was the G-Stars fourth win in a row, boosting their chances to finish in the top four and be paired with lowly-ranked squad in the playoffs.

The G-Stars, who improved to a 4-2 record, are currently in third place behind the league-leading San Antonio Sixers (7-0), and the CNMI Junior Nationals (6-0).

The G-Stars last two games will be against the Rollers I and the Junior Nationals. The Jose Tumaquip-coached G-Stars were supposed to face the Rollers I last night, but the Oleai Sports Complex venue was closed late afternoon.

The G-Stars will collide with the CNMI Junior Nationals at the end of the regular season on Thursday.

The G-Stars played in their first game last week after taking a weeklong break due to Tumaquip's absence. The G-Stars mentor was in Guam coaching the CNMI Women's Junior Nationals.

The G-Stars were without Tumaquip anew when they met the Kontenders, giving Tyrone Omar a chance to call the shots for the team.

Despite Tumaquip's absence, the G-Stars had an easy time against the Kontenders, who missed key players Soane Pua and Jester Kaipat.

Pua and Kaipat had a solid game in the Kontenders' 63-60 win over the Chalan Kanoa Saints on Oct 6. Kaipat and Pua combined for 21 points to snap the Kontenders four-game losing streak

Now, the Kontenders ended their regular season campaign on a losing note, dropping to a 3-5 record.

The Kontenders were still in contention in the first half, trailing by only three, 20-17.

But the G-Stars stepped on the gas in the second half, drawing contributions from every player Omar fielded in the game to nail an easy 19-point win.

Nate Mateo tops-cored for the G-Stars with 14 points and drew support from seven other players. The G-Stars had three players scoring four points apiece. Sean Sablan chipped in six, Joseph Jung added seven, and Dan Mateo and Ryan Ichihara had eight each.

Trevor Ogumoro carried the load for the Kontenders, firing a game-high 17 points, while Eugene Dillay contributed nine. Only Ogumoro had more than one field goal for the Kontenders in the second half, as the rest of his teammates struggled offensively and had to bleed for points from the free-throw line.

Dillay was without a field goal and had three charities in the second half. A.J. Kileleman and D.J. Ngirachongor had one field goal apiece, while Jordan Tagabuel scored a free throw and one field goal.

Despite the loss, the Kontenders are already assured of a slot in the playoffs, joining the G-Stars, Sixers, Rollers I, Suns, Chalan Kanoa Saints, Southern Sonics, and the CNMI Junior Nationals in the next round.

The last three games in the 18-and-under caging will decide the playoffs pairings which will have the No. 1 squad colliding with the No. 8 team, No. 2 vs. No. 7, No. 3 vs. No. 6, and No. 4 vs. No. 5.

Tonight, the two unbeaten teams—the CNMI Junior Nationals and Sixers—will duel for the pennant.

Tomorrow, the Rollers I will challenge the Saints.

G-Stars 57 – N. Mateo 14, D. Mateo 8, Ichihara 8, Jung 7, Sablan 6, Kenty 4, Manalili 4, S. Rangamar 4.

Kontenders 38 – Ogumoro 17, E. Dillay 9, Ngirachongor 6, Tagabuel 3, Kileleman 2, D. Dillay 1.

Scoring by halves: 20-17, 57-38.

Five teams sign up for Custom Goodwill softball tourney

Five teams have already signed up for this weekend's softball tournament organized by the Custom Goodwill Non-Profit Organization.

According to the group's president Samantha Salas, the teams that have so far joined the competition are Mangge, FAS, Your Balls, and Faha. She apologized that she forgot the name of the fifth team, which like the other four have already paid the entry fee.

The fundraising softball tournament will be held from Oct. 17 to 19 at the Capital Hill Ball Field.

In related news, Salas said organizers will hold a final meeting tomorrow, Oct. 15, 6pm at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The five teams that have already signed up and other interested teams are requested to attend the tete-a-tete.

For more information about the softball tournament organized by the Custom Goodwill Non-Profit Organization, call Salas at 285-7527 or Craig Sanchez at 483-3295. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

AON

From Page 28

In the second game, MIGS controlled the match from the opening tiff until the final buzzer to clobber PTC.

Sonny Lerio and Bonbon Cadagat teamed up in MIGS' explosive start, combining for 17 points to give their team a 32-19 lead.

MIGS's dynamic duo was unstoppable in the next three quarters en route to a 37-point blowout win over PTC.

Lerio finished with 27 points, while Cadagat had 23. Kae Bernardo was the other double figure scorer for MIGS, adding 12, and the winning squad drew contributions from nine other players.

Ryan Sanciangco led PTC with 27 points, while Leo Itaas fired 19.

First Game

AON Insurance 103 – Lim 20, Apelo 16, Eclevia 16, Factor 13, De Dios 11, Santos 8, Bahillo 7, Mendoza 5, De Guzman 4, Capuyon 3.

Century 87 – Vinas 15, Abuel 15, L. Palero 14, Joyner 14, Marasigan 9, Gapor 8, Opone 6, Jinang 5, R. Palero 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-24, 34-38, 70-58, 102-87.

Second Game

MIGS 114 – Lerio 27, Cadagat 23, Bernardo 12, Capalad 9, Pantaleon 8, Diyco 8, Moises 6, Doronilla 6, Hugos 5, Tamayo 4, Banatasa 2.

PTC 77 – Sanciangco 27, Itaas 19, Reyes 6, Cayetano 6, Abenoja 5, Lauron 4, Ritual 4, Seli 2, Lansang 2, Maglaya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-19, 60-32, 80-51, 114-77.

BARCINAS

From Page 28

around 60 students during their tryouts early this month.

"For the record, the past years that I have had my DES students participate in this great sport, I have seen motivation and enthusiasm from the students who participated in the tournament. I truly enjoyed and appreciated the way the leagues or tournaments were conducted. The kids are happy and excited to participate this year," he said.

The Dandan principal is counting on his fellow teachers/coaches to ensure the success of the league.

"We all know that one person can't do the job especially in running a huge league but I believe that having individuals who are passionate and enthusiastic about promoting, perpetuating, and strengthening the sport, together we can overcome the challenges and we will successfully accomplish our goals," he said.

"It will be an easy job especially if you work closely with your leadership team or members. I know the planning will not be left for me to do everything. It's a team effort and I will empower my experienced members to plan the event with me so we can successfully accomplish our mission as an organization," Barcinas added.

Barcinas is no stranger to working with various individuals in organizing tournament and leagues, as he had been part of volleyball and other sporting events.

"I've been exposed with various sports and organizing events. I have organized many community events like the NMI Beauty Pageant, DARE Jamboree, Red Cross Walkathon, DYS For the Children fun activities, many school programs, softball tournaments, many cultural dance programs, educational trainings, and many volleyball leagues and tournaments," he said.

Switching from soccer, he said, will not be difficulty, as he loves the challenges presented by every sport he joins.

"I have no problem adjusting from volleyball to soccer because I've played all kinds of sports like basketball for the Marianas Invitational Tournament and leagues, baseball, softball, tennis, and table tennis but volleyball suits me more. I enjoyed flying in the air to spike the ball and also jump serve. I enjoyed defending hard spikes from my opponents as well. Volleyball is speed and finesse. Soccer is endurance and speed as well. All sports have their own advantages and disadvantages which attracts me the most. I am just an all-around athlete and coach," Barcinas said.

He added that coaches/teachers who are working with NMIFA now for the U12 league will be a big help to ensure the success of the league, as they are also have been involved with PSS soccer tournaments in the past five years.

Barcinas said the biggest challenge now is to have encourages more local coaches to help the various schools and have referees for the league, which will kick of later this month.

"I'll be working with the members from the federation to provide more coaches and referees trainings for our coaches and any interested individuals to prevent any problem in the near future, especially during the games. We are also trying to build capacity amongst our local members so they can assist us in referring the games properly," Barcinas said.

SONNY

From Page 28

score of 82 after the 16-handicapper fired a 43 in the front nine before improving with a 39 in the back nine.

RGA president Adam Hardwicke finished second after putting up a net score of 68, built around a gross of 72 (35-37).

Hardwicke actually finished tied with Tars Olopai (41-38, 79 gross, 11 handicap) for the runner-up honor, but the former edged the latter in a scorecard tiebreak, 33-33.5 based on the front nine net score.

A total of 10 players took part in the October Ace. The rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Dwayn Stephens (69); John Mettao (72); Manny Mangarero (72); Jess Wabol (72); Ulysis Kapileo (78); Jordan Kossam (78); and Tom Tebuteb (85).

In the closest to the pin competition, Kossam was without peer in hole No. 7, while Olopai took the prize in hole No. 14.

In related news, Wabol, who is the club's tournament coordinator, reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of four tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or Hardwicke at 483-2926.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	126	104
New England	3	2	0	.600	89	109
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0	.600	141	130
Miami	2	3	0	.400	107	103
South						
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	115	56
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.600	114	97
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	124	128
Houston	1	4	0	.200	112	158
North						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	103	79
Baltimore	2	3	0	.400	78	87
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	46	78
Cincinnati	0	6	0	.000	88	144
West						
Denver	4	2	0	.667	166	154
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	178	139
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	81	135
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	65	131

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000	127	49
Washington	4	2	0	.667	126	117
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	175	141
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	167	123
South						
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	141	97
Carolina	4	2	0	.667	117	97
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	139	127
New Orleans	3	3	0	.500	172	133
North						
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	160	145
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	148	109
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	113	119
Detroit	0	5	0	.000	76	159
West						
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	177	144
San Francisco	2	4	0	.333	141	167
Seattle	1	4	0	.200	100	151
St. Louis	1	4	0	.200	62	164

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 22, Chicago 20
Houston 29, Miami 28
Minnesota 12, Detroit 10
New Orleans 34, Oakland 3
St. Louis 19, Washington 17
N.Y. Jets 26, Cincinnati 14
Indianapolis 31, Baltimore 3
Tampa Bay 27, Carolina 3
Jacksonville 24, Denver 17
Green Bay 27, Seattle 17
Arizona 30, Dallas 24, OT
Philadelphia 40, San Francisco 26
San Diego 30, New England 10

TEXAS OPEN SCORES

SAN ANTONIO (AP)–Scores Sunday from the $4.5 million PGA Tour Texas open at the par-70, 6,881-yard LaCantera Golf Club, Resort Course

FINAL

Zach Johnson	69-66-62-64	261
Charlie Wi	67-68-67-61	263
Mark Wilson	68-66-66-63	263
Tim Wilkinson	67-69-63-64	263
Jeff Overton	69-64-67-65	265
Stephen Ames	68-71-66-62	267
Chris Stroud	66-64-69-68	267
Pat Perez	71-64-68-65	268
Tim Herron	65-67-67-69	268
Rory Sabbatini	67-66-63-72	268
Harrison Frazar	69-69-65-66	269
Justin Leonard	70-69-64-66	269
Greg Kraft	65-71-65-68	269
Tim Petrovic	67-65-68-69	269
Dustin Johnson	67-69-68-66	270
Shane Bertsch	69-69-66-66	270
Bob Tway	66-72-64-68	270
Jeff Maggert	73-65-64-68	270
Bob Sowards	68-70-70-63	271
Steve Allan	66-70-71-64	271
Joe Durant	68-67-72-64	271
Chris DiMarco	68-69-70-64	271
Paul Goydos	66-66-73-66	271
Jason Gore	65-74-66-66	271
Chad Collins	65-73-65-68	271
Jimmy Walker	67-66-69-69	271
Kevin Streelman	70-63-69-69	271
Steve Elkington	68-70-73-61	272
Michael H. Thompson	68-65-67-72	272
Nathan Green	62-75-70-66	273
Tag Ridings	66-70-69-68	273
Brian Gay	68-67-69-69	273
Troy Matteson	68-70-66-69	273
Mark Hensby	68-66-67-72	273
Joe Ogilvie	66-67-67-73	273
Jason Allred	68-66-74-66	274
Nick O'Hern	65-72-70-67	274
Jhonattan Vegas	69-67-69-69	274
Scott Verplank	68-66-70-70	274
David Toms	68-66-70-70	274
Chad Campbell	71-65-68-70	274
Chez Reavie	67-67-69-71	274
Charles Howell III	68-67-68-71	274
Dean Wilson	71-67-69-68	275
Patrick Sheehan	65-71-70-69	275
Carlos Franco	69-70-67-69	275
Bob Estes	68-68-69-70	275
Todd Demsey	66-70-69-70	275
Bo Van Pelt	68-70-67-70	275
Craig Kanada	69-65-70-71	275
John Riegger	68-69-67-71	275
Michael Bradley	66-70-67-72	275
Nick Watney	67-71-69-69	276
Steve Marino	68-69-69-70	276
Doug LaBelle II	69-69-68-70	276
Olin Browne	64-69-74-70	277
Kevin Stadler	67-66-69-75	277
Robert Gamez	70-68-73-67	278
Sean O'Hair	72-66-70-70	278
J.J. Henry	70-68-70-70	278
Richard S. Johnson	70-67-70-71	278
Paul Claxton	64-70-72-72	278
Vaughn Taylor	70-68-67-73	278
Brad Elder	68-69-73-69	279
Alejandro Canizares	66-73-70-70	279
Matt Jones	69-64-73-73	279
Tom Pernice, Jr.	70-69-68-72	279
Jim McGovern	67-70-66-76	279
Scott Sterling	69-70-72-69	280
Martin Laird	67-71-71-72	281
Charley Hoffman	68-69-71-73	281
Frank Lickliter II	69-66-70-77	282
Nicholas Thompson	72-67-72-72	283
J.L. Lewis	68-69-68-78	283
Kyle Thompson	66-69-71-79	285

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBC-NMBF Coaching Clinic

Photos By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. and ROSELYN MONROYO

Tony Mordaunt flashes a thumbs up sign after answering a participant's question.

Tony Mordaunt explains a technique to Lito Mendoza.

Oceania Badminton Confederation regional development manager Tony Mordaunt answers a question from one of the participants in the introductory coaching course held last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Eight of the 12 coaches who successfully passed the introductory course conducted by Tony Mordaunt, right.

Tony Mordaunt prepares for a demonstration.

Left, Tony Mordaunt, right, hands over a certificate to Macoi Aguda, who was one of the 12 coaches who made the grade in the introductory coaching course.

Below center, CNMI sports supporter Jerry Tan, right, expresses his support to badminton and donates shuttlecocks to the federation.

Below right, Jerry Tan, center, who hosted the farewell party for Tony Mordaunt at his residence on Navy Hill, addresses NMBF members, while federation president Marconi Calindas, left, looks on.

G-Stars extend winning streak

The G-Stars continued to flash their brilliance in the 2008 Rotary Club Youth Basketball League thumping the Kontenders, 57-38, Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers top Phillies, fight way back into NLCS

Tired of getting brushed back in the NL championship series, Manny Ramirez and the Los Angeles Dodgers came out ready to fight their way back against Philadelphia.

24

'CNMI's passion for badminton amazing'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Oceania Badminton Confederation regional development manager Tony Mordaunt's 11-day visit to Saipan made him discover the island's passion for the sport which he believed is crucial in the development of badminton in the CNMI.

"I've been to many Pacific Island nations, but I've never seen passion as keen as what NMBF members have shown in my more than one week of stay here," Mordaunt said during the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation's farewell party for him at Jerry Tan's residence on Navy Hill.

"They are very enthusiastic to learn the sports and the coaches who attended the course were committed to learn," he added.

Mordaunt conducted an introductory coaching course at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week with 12 NMBF members making the grade.

The list include NMBF president Marconi Calindas, Lito Mendoza, Gigi Zapanta, Hapi Gabriel, Shirley Kim, Macoi Aguda, Ingrid Sanchez, Babes Cielo, Emily Vargas, Merlie Sabillano, Edwin Montoya, and Juliet Ramos.

Mordaunt said the enthusiasm and passion that NMBF members and coaches are showing are big factors in ensuring the growth of the sport in the Commonwealth.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMBF members and supporters pose for a group photo during the farewell party hosted by Jerry Tan and NMBF for Oceania Badminton Confederation regional development manager Tony Mordaunt Saturday.

"If these coaches will continue to show interest in promoting the sport by going to schools and teaching students and interested coaches, I would not be surprised to see many people involved in the sports when I return here," said Mordaunt, who hopes NMBF members learned a thing or two from him and share these to others.

"I hope I was able to improve their playing skills and in return they will be able to teach these skills to other players, especially the young ones," said Mordaunt, who is now in Palau to conduct similar clinics.

Calindas on behalf of NMBF thanked Mordaunt for sharing his time and expertise to the CNMI players and coaches and assured the OBC official that the association will do its best to promote the sport in the Commonwealth.

"The things we learned from him will not be put into waste, as we will go to schools to share these things to students and coaches/teachers," Calindas said.

He added they will be coordinating with Public School System officials to arrange for coaching and players' clinics and by 2009, Calindas said they are hoping to hold an interscholastic tournament.

Meanwhile, Calindas thanked Tan for hosting Mordaunt's party and donating shuttlecocks.

Tan said he will continue to support NMBF and other sports associations in any way he can, as getting involved with various sports is his passion.

"Badminton, tennis, swimming, soccer, bowling, or any sport, as long as we see more people getting involved with sporting events, we will always be here to extend a helping hand," Tan said.

AON, MIGS win opening games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

AON Insurance and MIGS recorded contrasting wins in the opening day of the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Sunday at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

A second half surge lifted AON to a come-from-behind 103-87 win over Century Insurance, while MIGS dominated Pacific Trading Co. from start to finish to cruise to a 114-77 triumph.

Century Insurance was off to a good start with Larry Palero and Wowie Abuel anchoring their team's attack in the first quarter, which ended with Century ahead by nine, 24-15.

AON began its uphill climb in the second quarter, as Jon Lim exploded for 12 points off the bench to cut the lead to four at halftime, 34-38.

That was the last time Century Insurance had control of the game, as a 36-20 scoring run put AON in the driver's seat at the end of the third period, 70-58.

Leo Apelo led AON's third-quarter scoring spree, firing 10 points. Mike Eclevia and Ray Santos provided support to Apelo, adding six markers apiece.

AON capped its comeback with another 30-point plus output in the final quarter, outscoring Century, 34-29.

The Emir Abuan-coached AON is composed of several players from the Southern Sonics. The young crew of the Sonics was complemented by veterans Leo Factor, Jorge De Guzman, and Marlon De Dios.

Lim top-scored for AON with 20 points, while Eclevia and Apelo contributed 16 markers apiece. Factor and De Dios chipped in 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Dennis Vinas and Abuel paced Century, nailing 15 points apiece, but they combined for only three points in the crucial third period. Palero finished with 14, but was limited to only two field goals in the second half and went only 4-for-10 from the free-throw line. Jawn Joyner also scored 14, 10 in the second half, but these were not enough to prevent Century from collapsing.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Century Insurance's Bing Marasigan drives against AON's Ray Santos during the opening game of the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Sunday at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

See AON on Page 26

Barcinas named U12 commissioner

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association took the lead in forming the U12 Interscholastic Football League, someone from the Public School System has stepped in to work hand in hand with NMIFA officials to ensure the success of the inaugural league.

Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas was nominated to be the commissioner of the league and gladly accepted the position expressing his passion to helping students get involved in sports rather that wander in the streets after school hours.

"I am very ecstatic, ready, and willing to jump in for our CNMI youths and most importantly in working closely with all the dynamic volunteers or leadership team of this excellent organization (NMIFA) in making this year's league a success," Barcinas said.

"I am very honored to be the first commissioner. I will go all out with my leaders and members in organizing events for our children so they can stay busy instead of doing bad things like drugs, burglary, vandalism, or simply getting bored not doing anything at all," said Barcinas, whose team the Dandan Tottots have drawn

See BARCINAS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas, second right, join PSS teachers/coaches in receiving equipment donation from various companies and individuals through NMIFA. The equipment will be used in the upcoming interscholastic league, which had chosen Barcinas as commissioner.

Sonny Flores secures October Ace

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sonny Flores won the Refaluwasch Golf Association October Ace after his qualifying score held up during the monthly tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Flores shot a net 65 in the qualifier held a week prior to the October Ace. The 15-handicapper had a good start at the Agingan Point course firing a 3-over par 39 on the front nine.

He, however, failed to sustain his momentum on the back nine, limping back to the clubhouse with a five-over par 41 for a gross 80.

While he wasn't the best for October, former Division of Community and Cultural Affairs director Tony Rogolifoi came away with the day's lowest score after the NMASA Hall of Famer carded a net 66 last Saturday.

Rogolifoi actually shot a gross

See SONNY on Page 26